



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 18, 2022  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*A Nativity Suite*

Wilbur Held

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*Creator of the Stars of Night* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.  
When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.  
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come away from times of weariness.  
Dare to accept the energy God offers you.  
**Restore our energy, O Source of all power.**  
**Let your goodness flow through us.**  
Come away from all your insignificant distractions.  
Dare to let God show you a larger picture.  
**Help us to examine the flow of our lives.**  
**Reveal to us what is really important.**  
Come away from the scorn of enemies.  
Dare to laugh with those who have laughed at you.  
**Lead us to think of others in new ways.**  
**Let us find grace and peace in Emmanuel.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Shepherding God, whose signs are everywhere,  
restore us in your light that we may discern what you are about.  
Shine upon this assembly to give life to our tired routines.  
Fill our longing hearts with quiet confidence.  
Awaken the child in us to experience your revelation.  
By your presence with us,  
deepen the prayers we utter, and turn our fears to eager anticipation.  
Touch us to lend strength and confidence  
as we reach out to one another for help and healing. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING (*Please be seated*)

The Niepokny, Scaggs, and Bane Family

“Ask for a sign from YHWH your God;  
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!”  
(Isaiah 7:11 The Inclusive Bible).  
But when the king refused, God would not be stopped.  
“Therefore, The Holy One will give you a sign: This young woman will become  
pregnant and will give birth. You will name the child Immanu-El.”  
(Isaiah 7:14 The Inclusive Bible).

God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves.  
God wants us to experience God's presence,  
even when we think we can handle life on our own.  
God sends us signs of God's presence with us;  
all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.

“The virgin will be with child and give birth,  
and the child will be named Immanuel’ –a name that means “God is with us.”  
When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed,  
and they went ahead with the marriage.  
He did not have intercourse with her until she had given birth; she had a son,  
and they named him Jesus.”  
(Matthew 1:23-25 The Inclusive Bible).

We light these candles,  
the candle of joyful hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy,  
and today of presence that speaks of love,  
as a sign that no matter our circumstances, we know we are not alone.

\* HYMN #88

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (Vss. 1,3,6, & 7) VENI EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Anand Bandari

How often we have chosen evil and refused what is good!  
The result of our choices is not what we intend.  
Listen, God is waiting to share pardon  
with all who have erected barriers to shut out God's love.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for personal silent confession.

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have called us to be apostles of your grace,  
but we have been judgmental instead of gracious.  
We condemn in others what is also, all too often, in us.  
We refuse to listen to others' pain or to understand the source of their tears.  
We avoid those who are angry or scornful or embittered.  
It is easier to dismiss the feelings of others than to offer true empathy.  
We would rather reject than encounter them.  
Yet you come to us, Immanuel, and we want to repent.  
You reach out to us, and our hearts melt.  
We want to embrace this new life.

*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's promises are fulfilled.  
We awaken from the nightmare of our neglect to a vision of what may yet be.  
We arise from our preoccupation with immediate problems  
to catch the larger vision and purpose God sets before us.  
Jesus is coming to save us from our sins.  
Immanuel is God with us.  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

\* GLORIA #581

*Glory be to the Father*

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

In thanks for all God's gifts,  
and in response to the tears of so many of God's children,  
we now gather all that we have to share,  
praying that these resources will accomplish much good among us  
and far beyond our individual reach.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      *There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth*      Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from Israel rise up,  
And dash in pieces princes and nations. How brightly beams the morning star!  
With sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing!  
Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, Life bestowing.  
Praise, oh praise love o'er flowing!

\* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

Anand Bandari

Let us pray:  
Loving God,  
we would not weary you with empty words or with routine tips of obligation.  
You have granted us life with such abundant possibilities  
that we can never do enough to express our gratitude.  
You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles.  
Therefore we offer ourselves and our abundance in the confidence  
that you continue to provide for us in whatever circumstances we face.  
Use us as minsters of your grace. Amen.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*All Things Come of Thee*      Herbert C. Peabody

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life;  
breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day.  
Draw us into communion,  
enable us to love,  
conspire to make us one with You  
for the world You so deeply love. Amen.

## THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture                      Isaiah 7:10-16 (The Inclusive Bible)

Once more YHWH spoke to Ahaz, and said, "Ask for a sign from YHWH your God; let it be deep as the netherworld or high as the sky." But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! And I will not put YHWH to the test!" Then Isaiah said, "Listen, O house of David! It is not enough for you to weary those around you, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Holy One will give you a sign: This young woman will become pregnant and will give birth. You will name the child Immanu-El. This child will be living on curds and honey by the time it knows how to refuse the evil and do good. But before that time— before the child knows how to refuse evil and do good—the land of the two rulers you dread will be laid waste

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Gabriel's Message*

Stephen Paulus

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
"All hail!" said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!  
"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!  
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy name." Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!  
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born, In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!  
Blessed Mother, gentle Mary, Gloria!

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25 (The Inclusive Bible)

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly. This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus— 'Salvation'— because he will save the people from their sins." All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet:

"The virgin will be with child and give birth,  
and the child will be named Immanuel"

a name that means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have intercourse with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"What about Joseph?"



Gracia Grindal, 1984

Rusty Edwards, 1984

1. To a maid en - gaged to Jo - seph, The an - gel Ga - briel came.  
 2. "For you are high - ly fa - vored By God, the Lord of all,  
 3. But Ma - ry was most trou - bled To hear the an - gel's word.  
 4. "Fear not, for God is with you, And you shall bear a child.  
 5. "How shall this be?" said Ma - ry, "I am not yet a wife."  
 6. As Ma - ry heard the an - gel, She won - dered at his words.

"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news.  
 Who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest,  
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,  
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.  
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly "The power of the Most High  
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," She said un - to her God.

Good news I come to tell you, Good news, I say, good news.  
 You are most blest, most bless - ed, God chose you, you are blest!"  
 To hear the an - gel's mess - age, It trou - bled her to hear.  
 And He shall reign for - ev - er, For - ev - er reign on high."  
 Will come up - on you short - ly; Your child will be God's child."  
 "So be it, I am read - y Ac - cord - ing to your Word."

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

\* HYMN #129

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;  
3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.  
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.  
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of  
To show God's love a - right she bore for us a  
En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.  
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.



\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

The word of the prophet is finding fulfillment.

Immanuel is arriving; God is with us.

**Outcasts have become a holy family.**

**Rejected ones carry the promise of salvation.**

God widens the circle of acceptance to include us.

God welcomes us to the obedience of faith.

**Some laugh at our beliefs and taunt us.**

**Sometimes we are scorned for trusting.**

Surely God's face shines on us to strengthen us.

Gifts of grace and peace are ours to receive.

**God helps us turn away from doing evil.**

**God equips us to choose what is good.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. by Diane Bish





## A message from the Community Engagement Committee

A docent will be available at the conclusion of Sunday service to answer questions of all who are interested in the history of Old Stone, architecture of the church, mission of Old Stone, process of applying for membership at OSC, or details of Presbyterianism.

### **Blue Christmas Service**

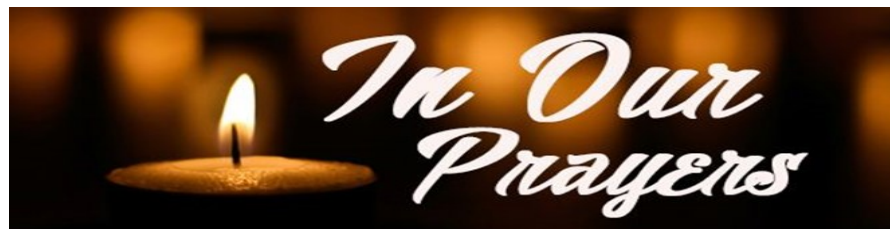
We're pleased to announce the addition of a special service this season for those for whom holidays present a particular challenge.

Please join us in this time of prayer and reflection, and to light a candle for grief, addiction, illness, family dynamics, personal struggles, or whatever you may be carrying in your heart.

**Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 6:00pm in the Chapel**

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

*Psalm 73:26*



### **We continue to keep in our prayers:**

Carol Anthony, Bob Heath, Cheryl Cairns, Jean English, Ruth Finley,  
JoAnn Hood, Marianne Jones and Len Lybarger,  
Jackie Acho, Alma Bako, Latoya Barron, Melvina Bishop, Marie Evans,  
George Hood, Clarence Niles, Bertha Nunn, Twilyn Teasley, Linda White, James White  
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

*Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need*



**Celebrate the arrival of the newborn Messiah at  
OLD STONE CHURCH**

**December 24, 2022 Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service at 7 PM and 9 PM**

**December 25, 2022 Christmas Day  
Lessons and Carols with Communion 10 AM**



**Dec 20,2022—Jan 3, 2023**

Tue Dec 20, 2022	10:00am - 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm Blue Christmas 7:00pm - 9:00pm Session/Hybrid
Thu Dec 22, 2022	10:00am - 11:00am Habitat for Humanity - Home dedication 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Sat Dec 24, 2022	1:00pm - 4:00pm Browns/Saints 7:00pm - 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service 9:00pm - 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service
Sun Dec 25, 2022	10:00am - 11:00am Christmas Day/Lessons and Carols/Communion
Mon Dec 26, 2022	Christmas Holiday/Building and Offices Closed
Tue Dec 27, 2022	Christmas Holiday/Building and Offices Closed
Sat Dec 31, 2022	New Years Eve
Sun Jan 1, 2023	10:00am - 11:00am Worship/Christmas I
Mon Jan 2, 2023	New Years/ Building and Offices Closed
Tue Jan 3, 2023	New Years/ Building and Offices Closed

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a>	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword <b>"oldstonecle"</b> to 73256
Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square Cleveland, OH 44113	Checks should be made payable to "Old Stone Church." If you would like to designate your contribution to one of Old Stone's mission projects, please make a note on the memo line.

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

## THE OLD STONE CHURCH

*LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820*

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

Website: [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) E-Mail: [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto:info@OldStoneChurch.org)

Music copied under ccli#1638695

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

**Director of Music and Musical Arts:** David C. Daugherty

### The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Andrew J. Schoenhofer, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

McKenna Jones, *alto*

Emma Nossem, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Joseph K. Breslau, *bass*

Seth Hobi, *bass*

### Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2023  
Dorothy Baunach  
Kara Bane  
Willie Brown

Class of 2024  
Beth Buchanan  
Robert Hubert Jr.  
Judy Macuga  
Harriet Niles  
Lee Ann Rader  
Marty Vassel  
John Young

Class of 2025  
Janie Chambers  
Fred Heider  
Len Lybarger  
Bernard Medie  
Bob Reid

### Church Deacons:

Class of 2023  
Ian Atwood  
Jessica Atwood  
Elizabeth Harris

Class of 2024  
Melissa Maffia  
Pete Maffia  
Mary Mikula  
Michael Rolén  
Penni Rolén  
Alyssa Niepokny

Class of 2025  
Scott Bailey  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland  
Amy Wheeler  
John Wheeler