



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE

7pm and 9pm Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Glory to God in The Highest Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
The Canadian Brass Christmas Carols arr. Lloyd Larson
Brass Quintet

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Once in Royal David's City
(Congregation to join in on verses 3 & 4)

IRBY

(3) Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

(4) And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of God has appeared among us.

A child has been born, bringing God's salvation.

We have seen anew the light of God's love.

How splendid is God's gift to us!

Sing to our God a joyous new song.

Sing to God, all nations of the earth.

Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

Ascribe to God the glory that is due.

Let the heavens be glad as the earth rejoices.

Glory to God in the highest heaven.

The Child of Bethlehem will help us know God.

We gather this night to contemplate what God has done.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

We tremble before you, holy God,

for your ways are far beyond our knowing.

You surprise us in unexpected places.

You come to us in people who we may overlook.

Your light exposes our shallow commitments and misplaced loyalties.

Yet we dare to come before you,

to bow down at the manger in awe and wonder.

This humble scene moves us more than we could have guessed.

It shakes all our pretensions.

We are filled with hope that a new day is dawning.

Establish among us your way of righteousness. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING *(Please be seated.)* The Eifert Family (7PM)
The Baunach and Cooper Family (9PM)

We have heard the call to keep watch. But what are we keeping watch over?

Maybe we're looking for something that will define us,

something that will remake us, transform us.

Some relationship, some hope, some love that will make us new.

Maybe we're looking for the gift we remember this night.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

What we go out to see in the muddle of our world

is not necessarily the Christ child or the light that glows within.

No, I think what we watch over is the world that he came to save:

the masses of humanity who think they can find salvation in the stuff of this life, like we do sometimes. When we forget.

A world that has room for a Savior, even when we've forgotten it.

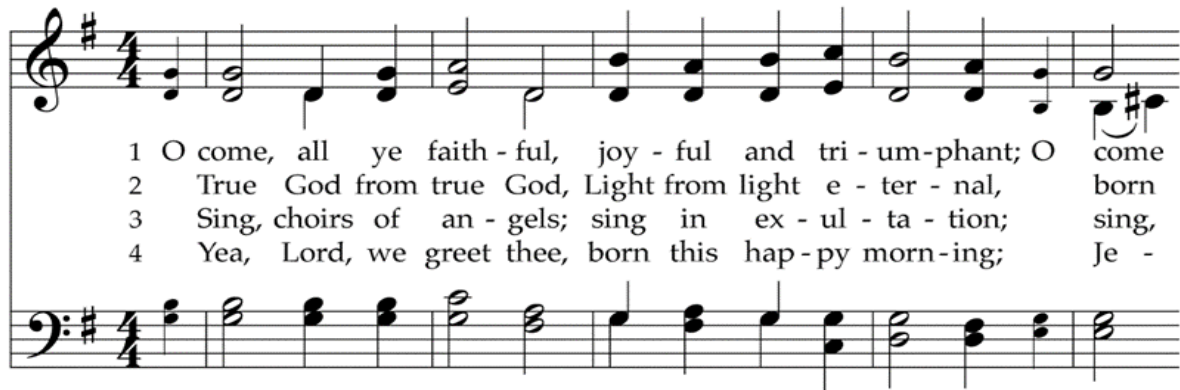
And part of what we're keeping watch for is to see whether we can make room—

room for grace, room for joy, room for peace, even at our worst.
 At our most needy. And most hopeful, and grace-filled. Keep watch.
 Let us light these candles and complete this circle
 as we rejoice in the light that shines in the darkness
 and declare with joy and with hope—
 Joy to the world, the lord has come! Hallelujah. Amen.

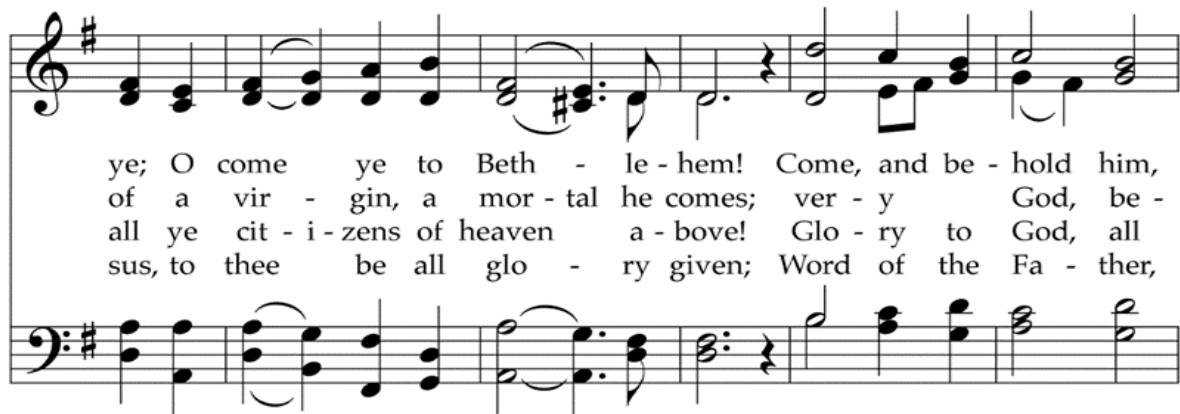
* HYMN #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain



born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Rob Wetzler (7PM)
Lee Ann Rader (9PM)

Will the light make a difference in our lives?
Will the new life appearing in Bethlehem awaken new life within us?
We are invited to make life-changing confession before the God of justice
who calls us to renounce impiety and worldly possessions.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for personal silent confession.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, we are frightened by what you might expect of us
if we get too close to the manger.
Many enticements draw our attention away from this holy place.
Our worldly passions have led us into comfortable ruts.
We admit that some are mere time-killers
but others seem to have real value to us.

What more can a baby offer us?
Of what use is a Messiah who ends up on a cross?
O God, teach us what salvation is all about.
Heal the emptiness that gives rise to our misplaced loyalties
and distorted dreams.
We want to be whole people, experiencing wholesome relationships,
giving ourselves to worthy causes.

(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

The Child of Bethlehem
becomes for us the Wonderful Counselor whose life points us to new priorities.
Away from our frantic busyness, we find true peace on our knees.
The truth is dawning in us and among us.
Good news of great joy fills us with hope.
Glory to God in the highest heaven!

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.

Ascribe to the Sovereign the glory that is due;
bring an offering in response to God's mighty acts.
Come with thanksgiving to the place where new birth occurs,
and the boots of trampling warriors are stilled.
Worship God with your gifts.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Came Down at Christmas

Bob Chilcott

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token, Love be your and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

* 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.*)

Rob Wetzler (7PM)
Lee Ann Rader (9PM)

Let us pray:

Amazing God, we want to invest in your promise of endless peace
when the authority of your holy child is established.
Let your peace come here and now as we dedicate ourselves
and our offerings for the purpose of upholding justice
and extending the gift of salvation to all people.
May our offerings and our lives be a blessing to others,
proclaiming good news of great joy in ways that all of us can understand.
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 9:2-7 (The Inclusive Bible)

The people walking in darkness
are seeing a brilliant light—
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows
light is shining!
God, you have made the nation greater—
you have brought them abundant joy!
They celebrate in your presence
as with the harvest celebrations,
or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the weight on their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressors—
you have shattered it, as on the defeat of Midian.
For every boot that trampled in battle,
every cloak that was dragged through blood,
is now used as fuel for the fire.
For a child is born to us,
an heir is given us,
upon whose shoulders
dominion will rest.
This One shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.
This dominion, and this peace,
will grow without end,
with David's throne and realm
sustained with justice and fairness,
now and forever.
The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A Boy Was Born

Bob Chilcott

A Boy was born in Bethlehem; Rejoice for that, Jerusalem! Alleluia.

He let himself a servant be, That all mankind he might set free: Alleluia.

Then praise the Word of God who came to dwell within a human frame: Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20 (The Inclusive Bible)

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman World.

This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register.

And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her delivery.

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping watch by turns over their flock.

The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear!

I come to proclaim good news to you—news of great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David’s city, a savior—the Messiah—, has been born to you.

Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, there was a multitude of heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in high heaven!

And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.” They hurried and found Mary and Joseph,

and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what had been told them about this child.

All who heard about it were astonished at the report given to them by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.

The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Some Children See Him”

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat
 (alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

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

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Let us look up, lest we miss the light.

Let us go where God leads, lest we miss the good news.

Let us leave behind the burdens God has lifted.

We want to embrace the hope of God's justice.

Sing a new song to the God of our salvation.

Declare God's glory by the way we live.

We want our lives to be songs of praise.

We want to communicate the joy we have found.

God's truth and righteousness will prevail.

The Child of Bethlehem will lead us.

Then we will follow where Christ leads.

Glory to God and peace on earth!

* HYMN #122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

1) Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin, mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2) Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born."

3) Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
glories stream from heaven afar,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4) Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.

(People are encouraged to leave in silence, as the choir quietly hums Silent Night.)

*“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, Melvina Bishop, Jim Coe, Tracey Crawford, Marie Evans,
Barbara Hall, George Hood, Bertha Nunn, Moises Ramos, 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.





Pastor's Welcome

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you here to the Old Stone Church
as we worship God and give thanks for the birth of Jesus the Christ!

May our hearts and minds be receptive to the Holy Spirit,
that the love of God will be born in each of us, anew.

May we allow that love to fill us and transform us.
So that we may share that love with our families, friends, and all those whom we meet.

Know that you are always welcome here,
and may Old Stone Church continue to be your spiritual home in the years ahead.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams



Some Children See Him

by Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt 1951.

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, The Lord of heav'n to earth come down.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.
some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.
Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.
Some children see him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face
like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,
come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!



There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword "oldstonecle" 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 E-Mail: 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*

Brass Quintet

Justin Rowan, trumpet

Kevin Natoli, trumpet

Nick Giralico, Horn

Chris Brosin, trombone

Nathan Shook, tuba

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 Rolan

Penni Rolan

Alyssa Niepokny

Class of 2025

Scott Bailey

Bernie Bischel

Carol Hoagland

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler