

The Old Stone Church

DECEMBER 25, 2022 CHRISTMAS DAY LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH COMMUNION

10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE WELCOME A Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

based on Isaiah 2:2-5

* CAROL # 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Vss. 1, 3 & 4)

ADESTE FIDELES

(1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

(3) Sing, choirs of angels;
O sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

(4) Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;O come, let us adore him,Christ, the Lord!

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Branch from Jesse

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt

and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,

the leopard will lie down with the goat,

the calf and the lion and the yearling together;

and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear,

their young will lie down together,

and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra's den,

and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy

on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

* CAROL #123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Vss. 1, 3 & 5)

CAROL

(1) It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

(3) Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

(5) For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

THE SECOND LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

Joy of the Redeemed

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer. and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

* CAROL #134

Joy to the World (Vss. 1 & 2)

ANTIOCH

(1) Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

(2) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy. THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy,

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.

The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son,

and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

* CAROL #129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

(1) Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

(2) Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,when half spent was the night.

(3) This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load. THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

* CAROL #88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Vss. 1 & 4) VENI EMMANUEL

(1) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(4) O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:39-58

Mary Visits Elizabeth

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The Birth of John the Baptist

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

* CAROL #100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Vss. 1 & 2) STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

(1) My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn? (*Refrain*)
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

(2) Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

* CAROL #115

Away in a Manger (Vss. 1 & 2)

MUELLER

(1) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(2) The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

* CAROL #113

(1) Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

(2) Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler

who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold,

frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

* CAROL #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are (Vss. 1, 2 & 5) KINGS OF ORIENT

(1) We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. (*Refrain*)

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

(2) Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (*Refrain*)

(5) Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice: Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (*Refrain*)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Manger Carol

Here betwixt ass and oxen mild, Sleep, sleep, sleep my little child. Angels from on high hover in the sky, Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love. Here in the crib, secure from harms, sleep, sleep in your mother's arms. Angels from on high hover in the sky, Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love. Here betwixt rose and lily white, sleep, sleep, sleep my son tonight. Angels from on high hover in the sky, Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love. On this fair night of holy joy, sleep, sleep, sleep my little boy. Angels from on high hover in the sky, Keeping watch above the incarnate God of love. Men.

* DOXOLOGY #144 (Vs. 4)

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him; give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Please be seated)

Let us pray:

Renewing Spirit,

we have been blessed by the old, old story and a new,

new outpouring of your love.

We would give that love away,

knowing that this is the only way we can keep it alive among us.

May all that we dedicate to you now

be used to express the riches of your grace to people who need good news. Amen.

CRANHAM

Leo Sowerby

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HOLY COMMUNION

* CAROL #147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

* INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast. Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul.

We receive the bread and the fruit of the vine connected to the ages:

to the saint of old who felt unworthy,

to the seeker eager to know God,

to the teenager who wonders what it's all about,

to the child who eats with unburdened faith.

Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations. There is great joy here.

No one is turned away for God is the host!

* CAROL #147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

* PRAYER

God is in this place.

And in our hearts.

Open yourself to the nudging God. We feel the breath of the Spirit.

Remember God made flesh.

Jesus, who taught us a new way.

(Allow silence to speak for a few moments.)

Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table, to taste the feast,

the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith.

Time and time again you've offered your grace,

even as we have stepped away,

You continue to call us to be your people.

You have never left us.

We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances.

You are ever-patient, always faithful.

We give thanks for this time of celebration. For the One this meal remembers. For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

With those who have gone before us, whose hands touched the bread, whose lips embraced the cup, We worship you. We glorify you.

This is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Bless them and your people all around the world. As we eat of these common elements, unite our spirits in love for you, and our hearts in love for one another. In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sustainer.

* CAROL #147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

* THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, +

who brings forth bread from the earth.

"This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And pouring the fruit of the vine into the cup, he blessed it saying:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,

who creates the fruit of the vine.

"This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

* PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, send power upon these gifts, your bread and your cup. God of all, send your Spirit to this place so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment, may know your presence.

As we eat the bread and drink of the cup, make us one with the saints, and with our sisters, siblings and brothers in faith around the world. Be with us God, not only here but in every moment of our lives. Help us To know you, To be guided by the Holy Spirit, And to live Christ. Now and forever.

* PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

We pray for all those in need of healing, comfort or strength,

whether it be of body, mind, or spirit. We pray for...

We pray 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

* CALL TO THE FEAST

This is the feast prepared for you. Come and share for all is ready.

Please hold onto the elements till all are served, that we might partake of them together.

* SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The Body of Christ broken for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Creative, connecting God, you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ; From child-like faith, to youthful energy, from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom.. We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen.

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING In the quiet beauty of Christmas the hardness of our hearts is melted. We have sensed truths too deep for words and been in touch with realities beyond our reach. Love is especially real at Christmas, lifting us above our indifferences and hatreds. We want the joy and goodness to continue; we long to be generous, caring people. Old selfishness and rivalries cannot survive when people kneel together at the manger. We would glorify and praise God through new attitudes and greater appreciation of all our brothers and sisters. * CHORAL RESPONSE Sevenfold Amen Peter Lukin

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Toccata in E-Major

J. S. Bach

"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 continue to be your spiritual home in the years ahead.

Yours In Christ, Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams



There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving:	Mobile Giving:
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Old Stone Church	like to designate your contribution to one of Old Stone's mission projects, please make a note on the memo line.
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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

Rayna Brooks, *alto* McKenna Jones, *alto* Emma Nossem, *alto* lan Atwood, *tenor* Frederick Peterbark, *tenor* Andrew J. Schoenhofer, *tenor*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass* Joseph K. Breslau, *bass* Seth Hobi, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

<u>Class of 2023</u> Dorothy Baunach Kara Bane Willie Brown <u>Class of 2024</u> Beth Buchanan Robert Hubert Jr. Judy Macuga Harriet Niles Lee Ann Rader Marty Vassel John Young

Church Deacons:

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