

# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 4, 2022  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Johannes Brahms

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *Of The Father's Love Begotten* 13 Century Plain Song  
arr. by Paul Wohlhemuth

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending, He, Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the savior of our race, and the babe,  
the world's Redeemer, first revealed His face,  
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;

Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this service of prayer and praise.  
Rejoice together, people of God.

**We anticipate the coming of God's Chosen One,  
who brings hope to the meek of the earth.**

The promises of God are for all humankind,  
Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, slave and free.

**We are called to live in harmony,  
even with those who appear to be our enemies.**

We shall be judged, not by our connections,  
but by our commitment to God's purposes.

**We draw near for instruction and encouragement,  
to be girded with righteousness and faithfulness.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

God, whom we fear and in whom we hope,  
awaken all our senses to the meaning of Christ's coming.  
Baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire that we may be alert to  
the opportunities for faithful witness and deeds of service.  
We would welcome one another in this service of worship as  
Christ has welcomed us.  
Grant us your joy and peace as we learn to serve together. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING (*Please be seated*)                      The Wetzler Family

"There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain,  
for as the water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH.  
On that day, the root of Jesse will stand as a symbol to the peoples of the world—  
nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor."  
(Isaiah 11:9-10 The Inclusive Bible).

We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of.  
We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world,  
to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us.  
Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

"At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming.  
"Change your hearts and minds,  
for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!"  
"Give some evidence that you are ready to reform!"  
(Matthew 3:1,2, 8 The Inclusive Bible).

We light these candles,  
the candle of joyful hope and the candle of proclaimed peace,  
in part to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God's promise.  
But we also light them as a sign to the world,  
an announcement there are some who hold on to hope  
and there are some who work the ways of peace.  
We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is still our fervent prayer.



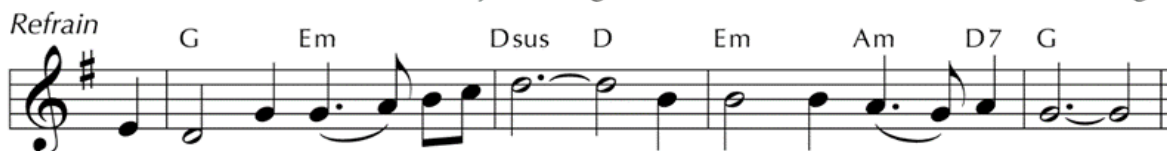
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

## \* CALL TO CONFESSION

Natalie Ronayne

Out of the myriad cries of the season comes one that few hear and even fewer heed:

“Repent, change your hearts and minds, for the realm of God is about to break in on you.”

In moments of silence, ponder which of these written petitions applies to you. Then let each of us pray those parts of the prayer that we can utter in sincere penitence.

Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession, followed by time for personal silent confession.

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, whom we have ignored amid the world's pretensions,  
we confess that we have been impressed by appearances and power.  
We divide people into classes and categories  
and choose to associate with those who seem most likely to benefit us.  
Accumulation of things has been more important to us  
than wisdom and understanding.  
We are more attracted to might than to good counsel.  
We seldom ponder equity for the poor  
or work on ways to accomplish the revolution of true peace in the world.  
Forgive, O God, our failure to see and hear your revelation.  
We repent, committing to changing our hearts and minds,  
seeking a new way.

*(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

We cannot presume on God's favor because we have been faithfully religious.  
But honest sorrow over the way we have treated others and failed to live up to  
God's purposes is met with understanding, forgiveness, and the opportunity to  
make a new start.

Let all people praise God and bear fruit that benefits repentance.

**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.

As we join our voices in prayer and praise, so, too,  
we bring together the symbols of our life investment:  
money we have earned, the hours we have before us,  
the abilities that are ours alone.

Let us give ourselves with joy.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him, who freed us from our sin.  
Who loved us all, and shed his blood, that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord.

The Lord almighty God, who was and is, and is to come, sing holy, holy Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein.

Rejoice on earth, ye saints below *for Christ is coming, is coming soon.*  
*For Christ is coming soon.*

E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come, and night shall be no more.  
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Revelation 1:4; 4:8; 22:20,5

\* 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*)

Natalie Ronayne

Let us pray:

What a joy to give!

What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes, amazing God!

You inspire us to oppose wickedness, to stand up for the oppressed,  
to work for harmony among all your children.

Lead us, together, to your holy mountain,  
where all are valued and no one is excluded.

May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways across this earth,  
widening the circle of inclusion to embrace all your children, in Jesus' name.  
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

Christopher Ronayne

**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 11:1-10 (The Inclusive Bible)

Christopher Ronayne

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;  
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom:  
The spirit of YHWH will rest on you—  
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
a spirit of counsel and strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and the reverence for YHWH.  
You will delight in obeying YHWH,  
and you will not judge by appearances,  
or make decisions by hearsay.  
You will treat the poor with fairness  
and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.  
With a single word you will strike down tyrants,  
with your decrees you will execute evil people.  
Justice will be the belt around this your waist—  
faithfulness will gird you up.  
Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;  
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,  
and a little child will lead them.  
The cow will feed with the bear;  
their young will lie down together.  
The lion will eat hay like the ox.  
The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,  
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.  
There will be no harm, no destruction  
anywhere in my holy mountain,  
for as the water fills the sea,  
so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH.  
The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Bob Chilcott

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter. When half-spent was the  
night.

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 to men a Savior. When half-spent was the night.

O flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel with glorious splendor the dark-  
ness everywhere.

True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us and share our every load.

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming.

“Change your hearts and minds,  
for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!”

It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said,

“A herald’s voice cries in the dessert:

‘Prepare the way of our God, make straight the paths of God.’”

John was clothed in a garment of camel’s hair and wore a leather belt  
around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food.

At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and all the region around the Jordan  
were going out to him, John baptized them in the Jordan River  
as they confessed their sins.

When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to  
be baptized, John said to them,

“You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath?

Give some evidence that you mean to reform, and don’t pride yourselves on the  
claim, ‘Sarah and Abraham as our parents,’

I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these stones!

Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree.

Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart,

but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I.

I’m not fit even to untie the sandals of the Coming One!

That One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire,

whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor.

The grain will be gathered in the barn,

but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire.”

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Beginning Again!”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

### 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



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look  
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:  
 Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing.

**How good it is to visit God's holy mountain,  
to have this time apart from our busy world.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit  
may you abound in hope.

**How good it is to return to our busy world,  
filled with new expectation and renewed capacity to share.**

May the One whom the nations seek  
visit you in your home and work and leisure.

**May we bear good fruit among all people  
and live in harmony with our sisters and brothers.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Swiss Noel*

Louis Claude D'Aquin

*"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:**

Cheryl Cairns, Jean English, Ruth Finley, JoAnn Hood,  
Marianne Jones and Len Lybarger, Marlon Naylor and family,  
Jackie Acho, Alma Bako, Latoya Barron, Melvina Bishop, George Hood,  
Clarence Niles, Bertha Nunn, Twilyn Teasley, Linda White, James White

We pray for the repose of the soul of Annette Naylor,  
may her memory be a blessing.

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.*



## ***Messiah***

Celebrate the season of Advent at Old Stone Church with the Old Stone Singers and chamber orchestra performance of the Christmas portion of George Frederick Handel's famed oratorio *Messiah*.

This free and open-to-the-public performance of *Messiah*, directed by Old Stone Church's Music Director David Daugherty, will take place **today Sunday, December 4th from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** and feature members of the Old Stone Singers as the soloists. Come join us for this unique performance.

The program will conclude with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long!



### **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

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 "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](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 Rolan

Penni Rolan

Alyssa Niepokny

#### Class of 2025

Scott Bailey

Bernie Bischel

Carol Hoagland

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler