



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm and 7pm Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Selections from "On Christmas Night"

Bob Chilcott

A Spotless Rose
The Cherry Tree Carol
O Little Town

For Unto Us a Child is Born from "Messiah"

G.F. Handel

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

INTROIT

Rejoice and be Merry from "On Christmas Night"

Bob Chilcott

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth! O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth!
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation:
His praises we'll sing!

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky; vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,
Proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation:
His praises we'll sing!

Likewise, a bright star in the sky did appear, which led the wise men from the east to draw near;
They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King, who brought us salvation:
His praises we'll sing!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The splendor of God has been revealed among us.
A child has come to change all our ways.

We who have walked in the shadows have seen the light.

We have given up the unnecessary burdens we carry.

Authority has been assigned to the Wonderful Counselor.

Peace and justice will prevail through eternity.

We will leave judgment to God, whose equity we trust.

We are free to rejoice in the beauty God reveals.

Worship the One who breaks yokes and frees us.

Great is our God, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let earth rejoice.

We are ready to declare God's marvelous works.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

You keep surprising us, gracious God.

Just when we get settled into our routines,
you offer us a transforming birth.

While we focus on greatness,

you appear in humble circumstances among ordinary people,
in out-of-the-way places.

Amid the noise of our busyness,

the angel song suddenly penetrates our dulled awareness,
and we must listen again.

O God, keep us from fear or cynicism,

lest we miss this opportunity to hear good news that is meant for us,
and for all this hostile unbelieving world in which we live. Amen

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING (*Please be seated.*) *The Atwood Family (5PM)*
The Musson Family (7PM)

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared,
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)
Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

Light all five candles of the Advent wreath.

* HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES
arr. Lloyd Larson

Choir:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All:

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.

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, 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.

Choir:

*Come, let us adore Him, worship and adore Him.
Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!*

* CALL TO CONFESSION

John Wheeler (5PM)
Margaret Wetzler (7PM)

The coming of Christmas challenges all our pretensions.
We who have sought to organize and manage the world
through our finite understandings
are confronted with the wonder of Bethlehem.
A baby carries God's revelation,
and we are convicted of our neglect.
Let us seek to reclaim God's mercy.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession. Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God,
we confess our fear to let down our guard,
to feel the wonder,
to believe the good news.
Why would love choose to live among us,
who are so unloving in our words and deeds?
Why would you choose to place Trusting Innocence
in the hands of sinners like us?
We are afraid to bow down,
lest we be accused of sentimental weakness.
We hesitate to embrace the joy,
lest it turn to disappointment in the cruel realities of this world.
Forgive us, God, and awaken the child within us, we pray, in Jesus' name.
(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

SINGAPURA

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all,
training us for lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.
Jesus Christ has come to us as God's gift.
In Christ, we are redeemed from iniquity
and purified to live as God's own people.
Glorify and praise God through your zeal for good deeds.
Accept and live within the peace God provides.
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 #583

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taizé)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

We, who have known God's gracious hospitality,
are invited to share together in ministry to the homeless,
the forgotten, the weary, the lost of our world.

Our offerings of gratitude remind us of God's claim on us and on all we possess.
Let us make a generous response, in thanksgiving for all we have received.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

How Great Our Joy!

Craig Courtney

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy.

There shall be born, so did he say, In Bethlehem a Child today.

How great our joy.

There shall a Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

* 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

John Wheeler (5PM)
Margaret Wetzler (7PM)

Let us pray:

Thank you, God, for all the gifts you have given us.

Most of all, we are grateful for the human child
who became the embodiment of your Love.

With our offerings we worship the babe of Bethlehem
and recommit ourselves as disciples of the man of Nazareth
whom he grew up to be.

May the ministry and mission of this church
be true to our crucified and risen Savior,
in whose name we pray.

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

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14 (NRSVUE)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel

Luke 2:1-20 (NRSVUE)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"He is Born"

Choir:

*Lift your voice in joyous praise! God has come to earth this day.
Emmanuel now dwells with us.
Joy to the world! The Lord is come!*

All:

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of His love.**

Choir:

*Lift your voice in joyous praise! God has come to earth this day.
Emmanuel now dwells with us.
Joy to the world! The Lord is come!*

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

Carry a song on your lips and joy in your hearts.
Let all the world observe the good news you convey.
**Glory to God, glory to God in the highest!
May God's peace reign among all people!**
As shepherds praised God for all they saw and heard,
We are commissioned to share Christmas joy.
**A baby has become our Wonderful Counselor.
A child is pointing us to the way of peace.**
The grace of God is your salvation, now and always.
Jesus Christ is the blessed hope who embraces us.
**We join in glorifying and praising god.
We welcome the Christ into our hearts and homes.**

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.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant, beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Musical Interlude

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.)

*"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:

Andrew Buchanan, Marylou Eisaman, Becky Jadlocki, Jackie Cole, Dean,
Joyce Sabe, Caroline Poirier, Nova and Tony Kordalski, Marlene Henne,
Laurie Thomson, Frank Macuga, Susan Ball, Shirley Daly, Karen Nestor,
JoAnn Hood, Louis Handler, Jenni Plants, Faith Battan, David,
Herbert Glover and family

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.

He Is Born
by David Archuleta

The journey cross a desert land
Nothing sure and nothing planned
Faith in something still unknown
The Savior born without a home

Shepherds gather from afar
Darkness broken by a star
Something new that always was
A newborn baby, God with us

Someday He'll give His life for me
For now He sleeps so peacefully

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
They all sing praise the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Come adore, He is born today!

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Today
He is born today

Seeing now with open eyes
What once was lost what once was blind
What once was broken in the world
Amazing grace has now restored

Someday He'll give His life for me
But now He sleeps so peacefully

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
They all sing praise the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Come adore, Christ is born today!

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Today
He is born today

Stepping down from heaven's throne
To show us that we're not alone
The truest love, a single light
The Son of God, Christmas night

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
They all sing praise the King
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Come adore, He is born today!

Hallelujah, hallelujah
Today
He is born today



Pastor's Welcome

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you here to the
Old Stone-First Presbyterian Church
as we worship God and give thanks for the birth of Jesus the Christ!
May our hearts and minds be receptive to the movement of the Holy Spirit,
that the love and light of God will be born anew in each of us.

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

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

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00PM Worship/Sanctuary

7:00PM Worship/Sanctuary

Monday December 25 Christmas Day

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

Tuesday December 26 Building and Offices Closed

Sunday December 31 Epiphany

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

Sunday December 31 New Year's Eve

6:00PM Worship/Chapel

By entering The Old Stone Church and by your presence here, you consent to be
photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded.

Your entry constitutes your consent to such
photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for
The Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.

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

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Emma Nossem, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

Chamber Orchestra

Andrea Belding Eldon, *violin*

Mary Kay Robinson, *flute*

Ann Yu, *violin*

Danna Sundet, *oboe*

Trevor Kazarian, *cello*

Luke Rinderknecht, *percussion*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2023

Beth Buchanan
Robert Hubert Jr.

Judy Macuga

Harriet Niles

Marty Vassel

John Young

Class of 2024

Michelle Baron
Janie Chambers

Fred Heider

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Class of 2025

Willie Brown
Dave Finley

Church Deacons:

Class of 2023

Melissa Maffia
Pete Maffia
Alyssa Niepokny
Michael Rolan
Penni Rolan

Class of 2024

Scott Bailey
Bernie Bischel
Carol Hoagland
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2025

Elie Medie
Mark Pichler