



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2023
CHRISTMAS DAY
LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH COMMUNION
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Il est né, le divin Enfant

arr. Diane Bish

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* 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

* 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.

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!*

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.
You have multiplied exultation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

* HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

* HYMN

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.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

* HYMN

The Angel Gabriel

BASQUE CAROL

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 favored 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 favored 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 favored lady. Gloria!

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

* HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

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.

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.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

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.

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.

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 SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

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: ¹¹to 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.

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

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

* HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (Refrain)
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

As the Magi brought gifts of
gold, frankincense, and myrrh
to celebrate the birth of Christ,
let us now bring our gifts before God.

OFFERING

HYMN

Still, Still, Still

STILL, STILL, STILL

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep
while angel hosts from heaven come winging, sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

* DOXOLOGY#607 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* 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

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.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #144

CRANHAM

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.

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week,
the day on which our Lord rose from the dead,
he appeared to his disciples in the place where they were gathered
and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Come, then, to the joyful feast of the Lord.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks.
It is our joy and our salvation at all times and in all places
to give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father,
almighty, everlasting God, through Christ, our Lord.**

Because the light of your glory
has shone with splendor in our world.
For you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son,
to be born for us of Mary
that we might have power to become your children through him:
who existed before the world was called into being,
but came down to save us
by being born of a humble virgin,
lying in a crib, walking on earth as a man;
who became poor that by his poverty
we might become rich;
who was humbled that we might be exalted;
who gave us peace and joy
when we were without hope and without God.
Therefore with the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth
we proclaim and celebrate the birth of our Savior and we sing with joy:

* HYMN

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**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.**

**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.**

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION (*Please be seated*)

We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice, until his coming again. For on the night of his arrest he took bread and, after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

"This is my body which is for you; do this as a memorial of me."

In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said,

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

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

"This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

**His death, O God, we proclaim.
His resurrection we declare.
His coming we await.
Glory be to you, O Lord.**

Heavenly Father, be present with your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, that we may be nourished and strengthened through this supper. Grant that all who share the communion of the body and blood of your Son may be united in him. And may we remain faithful in love and hope until we feast joyfully with him in his eternal kingdom. Until that day, we lift our prayers.

We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

Using the words recited by all generations,
we join in the prayer Jesus taught the disciples saying:

**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.**

The bread which we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body
for we all share in the same loaf.**

The cup for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**The cup which we drink
is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you soul will delight in the richest of fare." (Isa. 55:1-2)

**We praise you, Lord,
for these your gifts of bread and wine.
We offer you ourselves
as your people in your service.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**We will receive the bread of heaven.
We will drink the cup of salvation.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus
Christ was given for a complete remission of all our sins.

Take, drink, remember and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ was shed for a complete remission of all our sins.

SACRED MUSIC

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT
arr. Dan Forrest

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.

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."

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation in Christ, since the Lord has fed us at his table,
let us praise his holy name with thanksgiving.

O God, through this bread and this cup.
You have made us one with You and with each other.
May the unity we find at this table be a gift we carry out into Your world.
May this unity empower us to make room for all of God's people.
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

Amen

John Rutter

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Swiss Noel

Claude D'Aquin

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

Psalms 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.





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

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

Monday January 1 New Years Day

Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday January 2

Building and Offices Closed

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. |

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

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

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

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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*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Emma Nossem, *alto*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

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

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