



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

## INTROIT

## *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake, people of God, and stay alert for Christ’s coming.  
Grace to you and peace from God who sent Jesus to us.

**Make your ways known to us, O God.**

**Show us once more your awesome presence.**

We are all God’s people; no one is excluded.

Come together as God’s family for worship and prayer.

**Let the mountains quake before you, mighty God.**

**Let the nations tremble in awe and reverence.**

Praise the One who grants us the gift of life.

Give thanks for God’s continuing faithfulness.

**Heaven and earth will pass away,**

**But the Word of God is true for all times and places.**

### \* INVOCATION PRAYER

Amid threatening clouds of anger and selfish strife, come, O God,  
to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope.  
Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments  
and spill out in generous compassion for all your suffering children.  
Meet us today where we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come  
and for joys yet to be revealed.  
In Jesus’ name.  
Amen.

### \* ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Eileen Kelly & Don Urban

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:  
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains  
would quake at your presence.

As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make  
your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!  
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and  
the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our  
longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do  
not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

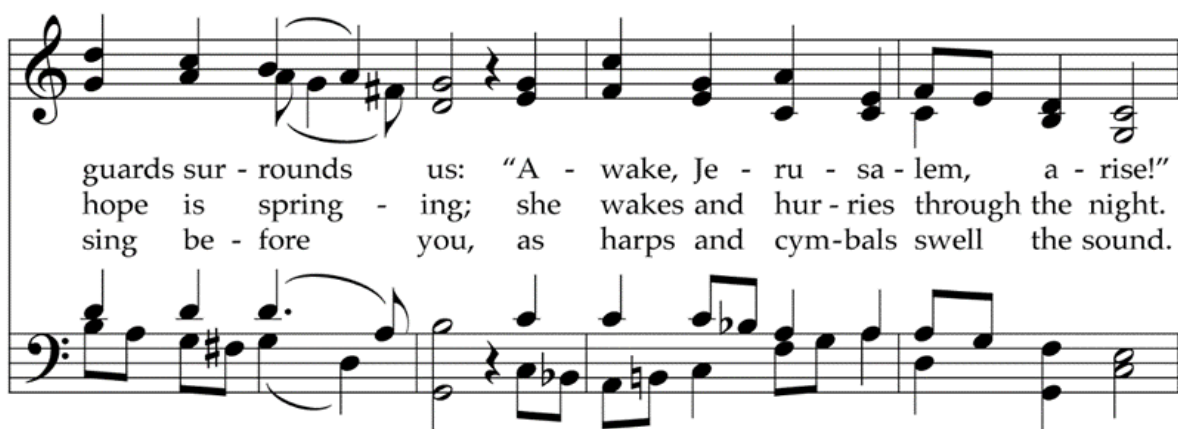
**We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of  
our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the Kin-dom all around us.**

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s  
activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us,  
working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

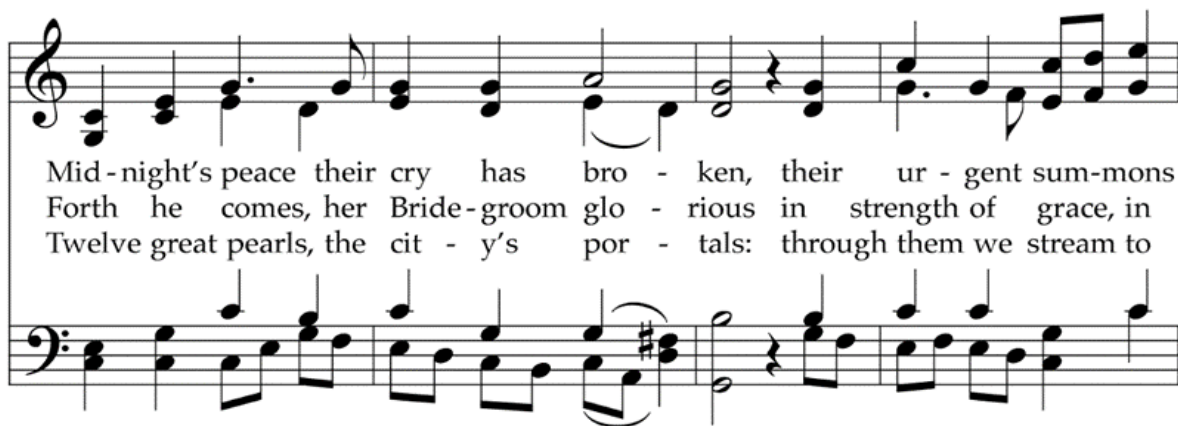
*Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.*



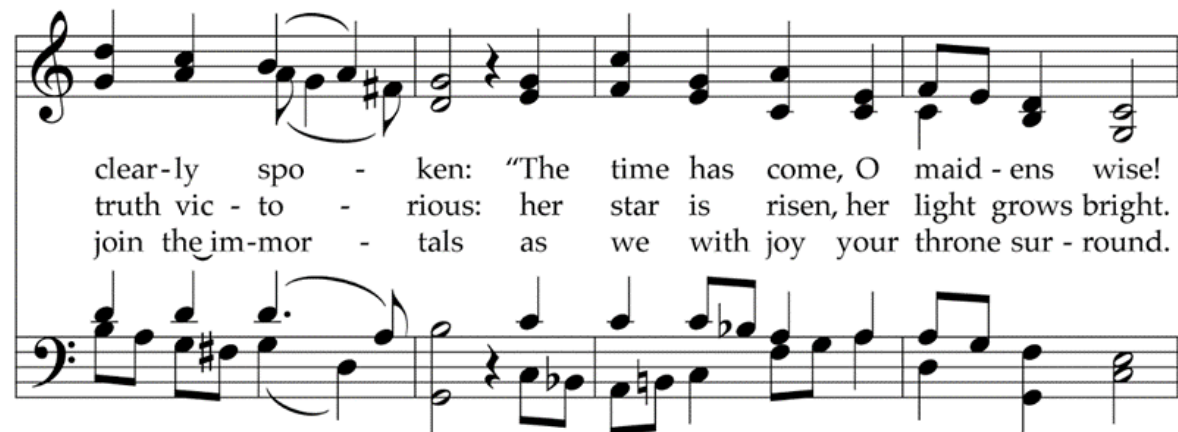
1 "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice as - tounds us; the shout of ram-part  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful  
 3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur - rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
 hope is spring - ing; she wakes and hur - ries through the night.  
 sing be - fore you, as harps and cym-bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum-mons  
 Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in  
 Twelve great pearls, the cit - y's por - tals: through them we stream to



clear-ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
 truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.  
 join the im-mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride-groom is in  
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, in - car - nate  
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and has - ten there,  
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call  
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to greet our King;

that you the wed - ding feast may share."  
 to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

As a new year begins in the church,  
 we seek to leave behind our past unfaithfulness.  
 We remember our doubts and neglect, the empty times when prayer is forgotten  
 and our focus is narrowed to petty concerns.  
 God is waiting to hear from us.  
 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 the sin of our separation from you.  
We have blamed you for hiding from us,  
rather than admitting we have failed to see you  
in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day.  
We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us.  
Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern.  
Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken.  
O God, we long for that loving community  
in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served.  
Move us to that place, we pray.

*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON

SINGAPURA

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

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ.  
God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal,  
that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons.  
Spiritual gifts are ours to claim.  
God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances.  
Praise God, the source of all things!  
**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 be to the Father*

GLORIA (Taizé)

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

OFFERTORY

Please be seated:  
We have been enriched and strengthened in so many ways by the gifts of God.  
Now we have the privilege of sharing God's Word with the world.  
Our offerings enable our church's witness in this community  
and a caring outreach around the globe.  
Let us give as we have been blessed.  
The offering will now be received.



## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thus Saith the Lord (*Accompagnato: Bass*) from “Messiah”

G.F. Handel

Albert Donze, *Bass*

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts; Yet once a little while,  
and I will shake the heavens and the earth; the sea and the dry land;  
and I will shake all nations; I'll shake the heavens, the earth, the sea,  
the dry land, all nations, I'll shake; and the desire of all nations shall come.  
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple.  
Even the messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in:  
Behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

### \* 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

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Gracious God, we give our best to you,  
not out of guilt or fear, but with gratitude and faith.  
You have been our support in times of need.  
Every breath we take is a gift from you.  
We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference,  
to help others be alert for your presence,  
to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care.  
We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness  
and all the days of our lives to those purposes.  
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

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away,  
but your words will not pass away:  
Your Word stands forever.  
May our generation be attentive  
so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we remember your ways  
and gladly do right,  
meeting you wherever and whenever you appear.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

## THE READINGS

Prophets

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSVUE)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name  
or attempts to take hold of you,  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

**With God's help we are listening.**

“But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Wet Clay till that Day!”





# WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

\* HYMN #84

Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.  
of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.  
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

\* INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

This is the joyful feast of the People of God.  
Men and women, youth and children,  
Come from the east and the west,  
The north and the south,  
And gather about Christ's table.  
This table is for all who wish to know  
The presence of Christ  
And to share in the community of God's people.  
It is not my table,  
It is not the Old Stone Church's table,  
It is the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,  
And all are welcome

\* PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
O Lord our God, creator, and ruler of the universe.

The heavens tremble  
and the mountains quake at your presence.  
Although we have forsaken you,  
you have never forgotten us:  
you are the potter and we are the clay,  
the work of your hand.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels,  
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

Christ Jesus is our grace and peace,  
the Word that we proclaim,  
the source of all our strength,  
and the giver of every good gift.  
In Christ's body,  
we have received fellowship with you, our God.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread  
and this fruit of the vine,  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,  
as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you  
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.  
Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Keep us awake until the hour of Christ's coming,  
when the sun and moon and stars will fall from heaven  
and you will gather up the faithful from the ends of the earth.

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.**

*( Please be seated)*

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

On the night before Jesus died, when he knew he would not be with his disciples much longer, he gave them a sign to remember him by. First, he took the bread from the table, blessed and broke it saying:

**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.

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

When we break the bread.  
Is it not a sharing of the body of Christ?"  
And pouring the fruit of the vine into the cup, he blessed it saying:

**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 in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

When we give thanks over the cup.  
Is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?"

## PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, send power upon these gifts,  
your bread and your cup.  
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.  
to be guided by the Holy Spirit, and to live Christ.  
Now and forever. Amen.

## CALL TO THE FEAST

This is the feast prepared for you.  
Come and share for all is ready.  
Please partake of the elements as you receive them,  
and then place the cup back into the tray.  
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer  
or in remembrance.  
Starting from the back of the sanctuary  
you are invited to come forward at this time.

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.  
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death  
abide,  
a yearning for tomorrow.  
There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the First-born of creation.  
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned,  
to bring to us salvation. Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.  
There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.  
There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who  
placed  
Within our hearts the yearning. Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

## \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

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.

\*  
1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.  
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
Trav-eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?  
Watch-man, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is - ra - el.  
Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav-eler, we re - joice to - day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

The time is coming when God will call us to account.

Be alert and watchful, serving faithfully day by day.

**We will look around us for signs of God's presence.**

**We will open our eyes to ways to be helpful.**

Use the gifts you have been given to the glory of God.

Let the testimony of Christ strengthen you in every way.

**We will share our spiritual gifts in word and deed.**

**We will seek to be shaped by the potter's hands.**

Grace to you and peace, from God and Jesus Christ.

Know that God is faithful and Christ walks with you.

**With hearts full of gladness, we will do what is right.**

**With great joy, our lives will show forth our faith.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Wilbur Held

*"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:**

Nova and Tony Kordalski, Marlene Henne, Frank Macuga, Susan Ball,  
Bernie Bischel, Shirley Daly, Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Louis Handler,  
Jenni Plants, Faith Battan, the family of John Petrus, the family of Jean Cooke

We pray for the repose of the soul of Jean C. Cooke,  
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 Minister of Music David Dettloff will take place

**Today Sunday, December 3rd from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 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**

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.

**Thursday December 21, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Chapel**



## **@ Old Stone Church**

### **Sunday December 3 Advent I**

**9:00AM Bible Study/Hybrid/ Cuyahoga Room**

**10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary**

**11:00AM Called Congregational Nominating Meeting**

**1:00PM Messiah Concert/Sanctuary**

### **Sunday December 10 Advent II**

**9:00AM Bible Study/Hybrid/ Cuyahoga Room**

**10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary**

### **Sunday December 17 Advent III**

**9:00AM Bible Study/Hybrid/ Cuyahoga Room**

**10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary**

### **Thursday December 21**

**6:30PM Blue Christmas Service/Chapel**

### **Sunday December 24 Advent IV**

**9:00AM Bible Study/Hybrid/ Cuyahoga Room**

**10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary**

**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person: 66 Online: 137

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 " <b>oldstonecle</b> " to 73256
Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square	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

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

**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*

Margaret Raupp, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

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 Rolen

Penni Rolen

### Class of 2024

Scott Bailey  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

### Class of 2025

Elie Medie  
Mark Pichler

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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.