



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 7, 2024  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD WITH COMMUNION  
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Meditation on Arlington*

Fred Bock

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*I Will Worship the Lord*

John Rutter

I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;  
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;  
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold. Alleluia.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

The powerful voice of God created all worlds.  
That same voice calls us to worship.

**Ascribe to our God glory and strength.**

**Come before God's glorious majesty.**

God's strength shakes the wilderness.

That same strength is offered to people of faith.

**The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.**

**May God bless all people with true peace.**

Come together to remember your baptism.

Gather to celebrate the Spirit's gifts.

**The heavens open to us at the Word of God.**

**Surely God forgives and makes whole.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe.

Each star and planet had its beginning in you.

Out of the void, you brought light and life.

Through eons of creativity, you have acted,

and today we are here, inheritors of an amazing process,

tiny specks in the limitless reaches of time and space.

And you are here, waiting to greet us.

As you acted in our baptism,

you are acting still to make all things new within us and among us.

Let your light awaken us and your Spirit empower us for faithful living.

Amen.

\* HYMN #259

*The God of Heaven (Psalm 29)*

GLORY

1 The God of heav - en thun - ders, whose voice in stri - dent  
2 The des - ert writhes in tem - pest; wind whips the trees to  
3 The might - y God e - ter - nal is to the throne as -

ech - oes re - sounds a - bove the wa - ters,  
fu - ry; the light - ning splits the for - est  
cend - ed, and we who are God's peo - ple,

and all the world sings, "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!"  
and flame dif - fus - es glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!  
with - in these walls cry, "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!"

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Michelle Baron

John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of our sins.  
We, who have received the gift of baptism,  
recognize the need to confess our sins  
to remind ourselves of our finitude and of God's amazing grace.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Michelle Baron

Creator God, you have created us,  
but we have chosen to go our own way.  
You have reclaimed us, but we have,  
by our arrogant attitudes and actions, rejected the claim.  
You have sent your Holy Spirit  
to break into our controlled and unimaginative routines,  
and we have not appreciated that burst of creative energy.  
We are ready now,  
ready to admit that our ways are full of dangerous byways.  
Our mistakes and failures have often come because in our false pride,  
we have not listened to you.  
Save us again by your forgiving love.  
*(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

Courtney Baron

A voice from heaven said to Jesus:  
"You are my own Child, the Beloved; with you I am well-pleased."  
Jesus Christ passed on that gift to those who dared to follow.  
We, too, are beloved children of God, loved, forgiven, and sent on a mission.  
All who are truly sorry for their sin  
are relieved of its burden and are recreated in God's image.  
Celebrate God's strength and glory!  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Courtney Baron

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

Courtney Baron

Please be seated:

In thanksgiving for all we have received,  
we enlist in the ministry Christ demonstrated and inspired.  
We have nothing apart from God's gifts.  
We have everything when we allow God's Spirit to work through us.  
This offering demonstrates the depth of our awareness.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Down to the River to Pray*

Traditional  
arr. Sheldon Curry

**R/.** As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the stary crown. Good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray.

**R/.** As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the robe and crown. Good Lord, show me the way.

O brothers, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**  
O fathers, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**  
O mothers, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**  
O sinners, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**

### \* 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

Michelle Baron

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have.  
You have granted us life.  
You have poured out abiding love on our behalf.  
You have made us rich.  
We share out of this awareness,  
and because we care about people who do not know you,  
people who have not shared your abundance,  
people who have defied your commandments,  
people who need your love.  
Bless our gifts to do the work you intend.  
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:

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God—  
tear open the veil of heaven  
and speak to us as beloved children  
so that we may hear and believe  
the good news of your Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 29 [Inclusive Bible]

Give glory to YHWH, you heavenly court,  
give YHWH glory and strength.

**Give forth the glory that God's name deserves,  
and worship YHWH in the splendor of holiness!**

The voice of YHWH resounds over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders over the raging seas.

**God's voice is powerful;**

**God's voice is full of majesty.**

The voice of YHWH snaps the cedars;  
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

**It makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

**The voice of YHWH strikes with bolts of lightning;**

The voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,  
the wilderness of Kadesh.

**The voice of God twists the oaks,  
and strips the forests bare;  
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!"**

YHWH sits in judgement over the flood;  
YHWH is its Ruler forever.

**Give strength to your people, YHWH!  
Bless your people with peace!**

And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me; I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Cleansed, Claimed, Forgiven"



# WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

HYMN #441

*Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.  
 2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.

1 Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:  
 2 Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,

Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.  
 I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:  
 to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.  
 kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - ši - ma - da ce.

Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!  
 Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -

How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.  
 ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.

This text, originally appearing in four stanzas, was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited. Both the Dakota and English versions have been associated with this shape note tune.

TEXT: Native American (Dakota); John B. Renville, 1879; trans. Emma Tibbets, 1955; vers. Jane Parker Huber, 1989  
 MUSIC: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813  
 English Trans. Metrical Version © 1989 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

NETTLETON  
 8.7.8.7.D

\* INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We have been baptized into Christ,  
engrafted into his royal family tree,  
made citizens of God's Kingdom.  
This is the royal banquet spread before us,  
set with the heavenly food of Christ  
who issues an invitation for all his subjects  
to come feast with him as we remember our baptism.

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.

Lord and life-giving Spirit,  
who charged the waters with life  
when first the world began:

**Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

Saving Lord, who sheltered us with Noah  
in the ark upon the flood:

**Drown our sin and raise us to new life.**

Giver of freedom, who led your people out of slavery  
through the waters that did not overwhelm:

**Drown our sin and raise us to new life.**

O God, our provider,  
who gives thirsty people water from a rock:

**Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

Holy Lord, who gives water to purify what is unclean:

**Drown our sin and raise us to new life.**

Brooding Spirit, who anointed Jesus  
with your power of life no death could conquer:

**Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
who poured yourself out as a drink offering on our behalf,  
filling us with your Spirit:

**Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.**

Spirit of the Living God, who charges  
the waters of baptism with resurrection power  
so we might live as part of God's New Creation:

**Drown our sin and raise us to new life.**

Drench us once more in your life-giving Spirit,  
Almighty God, that we might be cleansed, sustained,  
and anointed with your power  
as we proclaim with boldness and live with joy  
the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
to whom be all honor and dominion  
and glory now and forevermore.

Through our baptism into Christ,  
we were redeemed from our slavery to the powers of sin  
and made citizens of God's Commonwealth.  
Let us remember what God has done  
and is doing by renewing our baptismal vows,  
renouncing sin and professing faith in Christ Jesus.

Do you renounce the ways of sin  
that separate you from the love of God?

**Accepting God's love,  
I renounce all that makes me less than a child of God.**

Do you renounce all powers in the world  
that defy God's Way of Life for all?

**In the name of Christ Jesus, I renounce them.**

Will you resist the forces of sin  
that hold the world in captivity?

**With the power of the Holy Spirit, I will resist them.**

Trusting the gracious mercy of God,  
do you turn from evil to seek good?

**By the grace of God, I do.**

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Savior of the world?

**I believe Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.**

Will you follow the Spirit of the living Lord  
and live in accord with God's Way?

**By God's grace, I will walk in the Spirit Way.**

Spirit of the Living God,  
hover once more over us as you did at creation,  
energizing us with your life,  
that as we remember our baptism in Christ,  
we may be an open conduit of your Holy Spirit  
flooding all of creation with blessings  
of your abundant, redeemed life.  
We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, the living water, to your glory we pray.

*( Please be seated)*

Creator God, we praise you.  
For you are continually making all things new  
that the world might fulfill your good purpose.  
Into the midst of our sin  
you offer your love in Jesus Christ  
who was baptized in the muddy waters of sin,  
identifying with us in our human weakness,  
yet without sin of his own  
so he could raise us from our watery graves  
into the Spirit's breath of new life.  
Out of his own body offered for us and our salvation,  
Christ our Lord feeds us,  
nurturing us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Therefore we praise you with all the hosts of heaven  
who forever sing to the glory of your holy name,  
praying with them for the world you so love  
and offering ourselves in service to you  
on behalf of a hungry world.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One 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.

Make us good stewards of your creation, O Lord,  
that generations to come  
might look upon your works of wonder  
and utter a breathless prayer of praise.  
Pour your Spirit out upon the poor  
that they might be filled with your abundance.

Send forth your wisdom  
upon those in positions of authority  
that they might exercise their responsibilities  
with your justice and compassion.  
Set all those captive by sin free  
to delight in your love.  
Now, O Lord, send forth your Holy Spirit  
upon us and all the faithful  
who join you at this table,  
that we might glimpse your glory among us  
and rise up as one to give you thanks in all we do,  
through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor and dominion are yours, almighty God,  
now and forevermore.

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.**

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, Jesus 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,  
Jesus 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.

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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 are invited to take of the waters  
from the baptismal font and place them on your forehead.  
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.

## ANTHEM

### *Come to the Water*

John Foley  
arr. Jack Schrader

Oh let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord.  
Without money, without price, why should you pay the price?  
Except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord.  
Without money, without strife, why should you spend your life?  
Except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.  
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord.  
All who labor without rest, how can your soul find rest?  
Except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord.  
Bring the children without might, easy the load and light.  
Come to the Lord!

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION:

You are a good God who creates,  
gives birth, redeems, feeds,  
and encourages us to grow.  
Thank you for your many blessings to us.  
May those blessings now flow out to others  
in your name, we pray.  
Amen.

\* HYMN #482

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the  
tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God gives strength to those who will receive it.

God will bless the people with peace.

**We need the strength God will provide.**

**We accept peace as God's generous gift.**

Listen to the majesty of God's voice, calling you.

Glorify God's name in your work and worship.

**We have been baptized in the name of Jesus.**

**The triune God has blessed and empowered us.**

Then go out as a new creation in Christ.

Let others see how God is changing you.

**We are unworthy servants of the Most High.**

**Yet we are ready to do what God expects.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Postlude on "*Coronation*"

Jason D. Payne

*"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:**

Lee Rutti, Ken Moser, Katelynn Fawcett, Andrew Buchanan, Marylou Eisaman,  
Becky Jadlocki, Jackie Cole, Dean, Joyce Sabe, Nova and Tony Kordalski,  
Marlene Henne, Laurie Thomson, Martha Simons, Susan Ball, Shirley Daly,  
Karen Nestor, JoAnn Hood, Louis Handler, David, John and Alan

We pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Corneil Rolen,  
may her memory be a blessing.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Caroline Poirier,  
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.*

## News from Session

Old Stone Church Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024  
Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM Monday, January 22, 2024 @ 6:30PM  
OSC Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM, Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 6:30PM  
Elders and Deacons Retreat Saturday, January 27, 2024 11AM-4PM



In Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Old Stone Church Building and Offices will be closed  
**Monday January 15, 2024**



### @ Old Stone Church

Sunday January 7/ Baptism of the Lord

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission & Urban Wellness Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Monday January 8

All Day Committee Annual Reports Due

Sunday January 14/ **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:00AM Deacons Meeting/Chapel

Monday January 15/ **MLK Jr. Day**

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Thursday January 18

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Sunday January 21/ **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:15AM Old Stone Church Annual Meeting/Sanctuary

### Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person:72 Online: 173

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 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

**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 2024

Michelle Baron  
Janie Chambers  
Fred Heider  
Bernard Medie  
Bob Reid

#### Class of 2025

Dorothy Baunach  
Willie Brown  
David Eifert  
Dave Finley  
Robert Hubert Jr.

#### Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan  
Judy Macuga  
Melissa Maffia  
Harriet Niles  
Marty Vassel

### Church Deacons:

#### Class of 2024

Scott Bailey  
Arnard Bandari  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland  
Amy Wheeler  
John Wheeler

#### Class of 2025

Valorie Hempstead  
Eileen Kelly  
Elie Medie  
Mark Pichler

#### Class of 2026

Mark Corey  
Forrest Diehl  
Pam Daly  
Ruth Finley  
Alyssa Niepokny  
Charlene Thornton

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