



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?</i> from “Messiah” G.F. Handel R. Dominic Aragon, <i>bass</i>
WELCOME	Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
STEWARDSHIP MOMENT	Beth Buchanan
INTROIT	<i>An Advent Prayer</i> Allen Pote

Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin.
Come holy Jesus and make us pure within.
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise, enkindle a flame anew.
Increase our faith and strengthen our lives, show us the joy of living life in you.
Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin.
Come holy Jesus and make us pure within. Amen.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.

The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

We are here to listen for a word from God.

We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.

Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears.

There is a place for you in the company of seekers.

We thank God for our acceptance in the church.

We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.

We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.

We are glad God is doing great things among us.

We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

How good it is to gather

where garments of sorrow and affliction are removed.

Here, we are wrapped in the beauty of God's glory

and welcomed to life at its fullest.

Surely you restore us to our best, mighty God,

and equip us for productive living.

Make a difference within and among us today

so we can work for a better tomorrow.

Amen.

* ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

Peggie & Steve Willett

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation.

"Who can stand firm when that One appears?

That day will be like a smelter's fire, a launderer's soap.

The One will preside as a refiner and purifier,

purifying the Children of Levi, refining them like gold and silver—

then they will once again make offerings to YHWH in righteousness."

(Malachi 3:2b-3).

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo,

we choose to live with a passion for God's peace,

to listen to those who call us to righteousness,

and to submit ourselves to God's grace,

that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment
to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts,
our families, our communities, and throughout the earth
until God's Kindom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light two blue candles.

* HYMN #97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

* 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!

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Pete Maffia

We come before the refiner's fire,
that all falseness and impurities may be burned away.
Beneath all the pretense and brokenness of our lives,
God helps us to discover pure silver and gold.
We are highly valued by our Maker.
Let us be fully open to God's forgiving spirit.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray together:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we have tried to cover up our sins,
yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives.
You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits.
We have denied our baptism
and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship.
The good we do is often self-serving,
while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership.
Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around,
so that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON #91 *Come, Come Emmanuel* COME, COME EMMANUEL
**Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Good news!
God has done great things for us.
We are loved; we are forgiven; we are claimed by God's grace.
The Holy One has begun a good work in us.
Even now, the love of God is expanding our knowledge,
sharpening our discernment, and equipping us for excellence.
Go and bear fruit.

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.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.
What is a fitting offering that is pleasing to God?
When we sense the wonder of God's majesty
and realize the amazing extent of God's concern for us,
we can only respond with all that we have and all we are.
What we place on the altar is a small measure of our gratitude.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *And He Shall Purify* from "Messiah" G.F. Handel
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord
An offering in righteousness.

* DOXOLOGY #608 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow* PRAISE GOD

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Pete Maffia

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**How good you have been to us, gracious God!
How meagerly we have responded.
You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost.
You have filled our mouths with laughter
and our tongues with shouts of joy.
We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income,
but also through renewed commitment to righteous living.
By your grace,
we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us.
May love abound in and through us.
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

**Holy One, through your Holy Spirit
instruct us by the light of your prophets.
Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call
to become your path into the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Malachi 3:1-4 (Inclusive Bible)

Well, pay attention! I am sending my Messenger to prepare the way for me; the One you seek will suddenly come to his Temple, the Messenger of the Covenant whom you long for will come, says YHWH Omnipotent. But who can endure the day of that Coming? Who can stand when that One appears? That day will be like a smelter's fire, a launderer's soap. The One will preside as a refiner and purifier, purifying the Children of Levi, refining them like gold and silver— then they will once again make offerings to YHWH in righteousness. Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to YHWH, as they were in former days, in years past.

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

With God's help we are listening.



Gospel

Luke 1:68-79 (Inclusive Bible)

“Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel—
for you have visited and redeemed your people.
You have raised up a mighty savior for us
of the house of David,
as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones,
the prophets of ancient times:
salvation from our enemies and from the hands of all our foes.
You have shown mercy to our ancestors
by remembering the holy Covenant you made with them,
the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham,
granting that we, delivered from the hands of our enemies,
might serve you without fear, in holiness and justice,
in your presence all our days.
And you, my child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before our God to prepare the way of the Promised One,
giving the people the knowledge of salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.
Such is the tender mercy of our God,
who from on high will bring the Rising Sun to visit us,
to give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Purified, yet Not Burned”

INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

This is our common calling,
to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church,
some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders,
and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,
assuring that his ministry continues among us.

Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world,
for the ordering and governance of the church,
and for the preaching of the word and celebration of the sacraments.

Representing the one holy catholic
and apostolic church,
the session of The Old Stone Church
now ordains Eric Grattan, Sunny Kunche, and Larry Lippert to ministry as deacon,
and installs them to active service in this congregation.

Beth Buchanan

LAYING ON OF HANDS

I invite all those who have been previously ordained as Elder or Deacon to come
forward for the Laying on of Hands – if you prefer,
you may remain where you are seated
and extend your open hand toward those being ordained.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and eternal God,
with joy we give you thanks and praise.
Throughout the ages and in every place
you have chosen servants from among your people
to point the way to salvation by your grace.
We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear,
placing their trust in you alone
for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace;
for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth;
for leaders and teachers in every age
who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.
Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ,
who came not to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life to set others free.
Anointed by your Holy Spirit,
he proclaimed your reign on earth,
revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Give them a spirit of truthfulness
that they may show the compassion of Christ
in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people.

By the gifts of your Holy Spirit
empower them to build up the church,
to strengthen the common life of your people,
and to lead with compassion and vision.

In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry,
give to all your servants gladness and strength,
discipline and hope, humility, humor, and courage,
and an abiding sense of your presence.

Gracious God,
pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church,
that we may be for you a holy people baptized to serve you in the world.
Sustain your church in ministry.
Ground us in the gospel,
secure our hope in Christ,
strengthen our service to the outcast,
and increase our love for one another.
Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together,
that we may be effective servants of the gospel,
offering a compelling witness in the world
to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

The session also installs to active service
those who have been previously ordained:

Beth Buchanan

deacons Anand Bandari, Amy Wheeler, and John Wheeler,
and ruling elders Michelle Baron, Janie Chambers, Fred Heider, Bernard Medie,
and Bob Reid

Will you be a faithful deacon,
teaching charity, urging concern,
and directing the people's help
to the friendless and those in need,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

I will.

Will you be a faithful ruling elder,
watching over the people,
providing for their worship, nurture, and service?
Will you share in government and discipline,
serving in councils of the church,
and in your ministry will you try to show
the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

I will.

Do we, the members of the church,
accept Eric, Sunny, and Lori as deacons,
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them,
to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us,
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Gracious God, Give them a spirit of truthfulness
that they may show the compassion of Christ
in the actions of daily living
and rightly govern your people.

Eric, Sunny, and Lori,
you are deacons ordained to ministries of service
in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.
Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life
will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

Amen.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594
 English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
 7.7.7.7

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Remember those messengers of the faith you have known;
rejoice and give thanks for their witness.

**We, too, will prepare the way of Christ;
we will help to level the hills and valleys.**

Hold one another in your hearts day by day;
pray that love may rule all your relationships.

**We will weep with those who weep.
We will rejoice with those who rejoice.**

God will be with you wherever you go;
the good work begun in you will be brought to completion.

**All flesh will see the salvation of our God;
we will live in covenant with our Creator.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Jerry Westenkuehler

*“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:

Trenton Adams, Ruth Finley, Billy Augustus, JoAnn Hood, Donna Sue Buchanan,
Francis Sequeira, Clayton Rohrer, Shirley Daly, Barbara Haynes, Hannah Reid,
Kimberly Williams, Amy Wheeler, Shelley Wheeler, Madison, Olivia Costa,
Darlene, Tom Kirkbrick, Cathy Clegg, Linda White

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.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.

The FRONT STEPS Giving Tree

Gift packages are due back TODAY December 8, 2024



Messiah

Experience the Advent season at Old Stone Church with a performance of the Christmas portion of George Frederick Handel's renowned oratorio, Messiah, presented by the Old Stone Singers and chamber orchestra.

This complimentary event, directed by David Dettloff, the Minister of Music at Old Stone Church, is scheduled for **Today, December 8, 2024, at 1:00 PM**, and will showcase members of the Old Stone Singers as soloists.

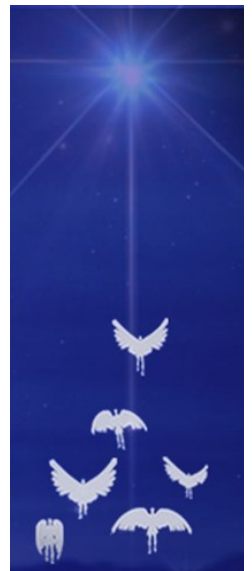
We invite you to join us for this exceptional performance, which will culminate in a festive sing-along of Christmas carols.

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.

Saturday December 21, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Chapel

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:76 Online:263



**Celebrate the arrival of the newborn Messiah at
The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland-
The Old Stone Church**

December 21, 2024 Blue Christmas
Chapel/Worship 6PM

December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve
Worship with Communion at 5PM and 7PM

December 25, 2024 Christmas Day
Lessons and Carols with Communion 10AM

December 29, 2024 First Sunday of Christmas
Worship 10AM

December 31, 2024 New Year's Eve
Chapel/Worship 6PM

January 5, 2025 Epiphany
Worship with Communion 10AM



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

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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*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

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

Anand Bandari

Bernie Bischel

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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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.