



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2024  
CHRISTMAS EVE

**5pm and 7pm Sanctuary Worship**

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Choral Selections

The Old Stone Singers

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;  
 Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,  
 hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
 See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night!  
 Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;  
 Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation;  
 hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!  
 See his star shining bright in the sky this Christmas Night!  
 Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.  
 The grace of God has come to save us.

**For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.**

**For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.**

Let all people sing for joy and give thanks.

Tell the world what God has done in our midst.

**God has called and chosen us to hear good news.**

**God's marvelous works are new every morning.**

Glory to God in the highest.

Peace on earth to all who please God.

**We seek to honor God In this time of worship.**

**We want to see for ourselves what God has done.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Out of deep shadows,**

**we are attracted to your brightness, Glorious God.**

**From the trauma of life's battles,**

**we are drawn to the peace you alone can provide.**

**Away from our irreligion and worldly passions,**

**you invite us to center our lives in you.**

**Come, Holy One, to reign among us.**

**Bring the joy we cannot know apart from you.**

**Lead us in the ways of justice and righteousness that you intend.**

**Establish among us your marvelous works**

**that we might declare them to a waiting world.**

**Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING *(Please be seated.)*

*Valorie Hempstead (5PM)*

*Barbara & Charles Yoost (7PM)*

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy,  
as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child is born to us,  
an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.  
This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God,  
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

**Christ our joy has come near.**

**Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby.**

**"This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,  
with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness,  
now and forever. The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it!"  
(Isaiah 9:7).**

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us,  
to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child.  
May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way  
as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

*Light the center candle, then the candles of the Advent wreath.*

\* HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

arr. Lloyd Larson

*Choir:*

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

**All:**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**

**Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, all glory in the highest.**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.**

*Choir:*

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

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Sunny Kunche (5PM)  
Dorothy Baunach (7PM)

The arrival of a baby recalls to us the preciousness of life.  
We stand in awe before one who is helpless and dependent  
and thereby realize once more our own vulnerability.  
Before the purity of the child, our sins are exposed.  
At the manger, we are driven to our knees.  
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

**God of the commonplace,  
we confess that we have been impressed by power and authority.  
We do not expect to meet you in the poor of the land,  
in cold barns, or on lonely duty watches.  
We are slow to hear the angels  
or to embrace the "good news of great joy."  
We hesitate to leave our chosen tasks to share in your larger purposes.  
We settle for idols of material security  
even as you thrust us into the battles of life,  
where we have nothing on which to rely other than our faith in you.  
Forgive our lack of trust.  
Renew us in the Holy Spirit, we pray.**  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON

SINGAPURA

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

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all.  
Do not be afraid.  
This is a day for good news of great joy.  
The Savior is born anew in our midst.  
Glory to God in the highest!  
Praise God for all we are seeing and hearing, as love is made known among us.  
**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

*Christmas Gloria*  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Daniel W. Laginya

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.  
We are a people chosen for good deeds.  
Together we can accomplish much as we bring our offerings into God's courts.  
Through our sharing, God brings a new day to many.  
Let our offerings be an expression of thanksgiving for the incarnation,  
for the peace God gives, for the joy that is ours today.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*How Great Our Joy!*

Craig Courtney

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
How great our joy.  
There shall be born, so did he say, In Bethlehem a Child today.  
How great our joy.  
There shall a Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all.  
This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill.  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

\* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sunny Kunche (5PM)  
Dorothy Baunach (7PM)

Let us pray:

**Thank you, God,  
for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love  
that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame.  
May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread.  
Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion  
that all your children may know joy and peace, in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*All Things Come of Thee*

Herbert C. Peabody

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life;  
breathe into us that we may hear a word of truth this day.  
Draw us into communion,  
enable us to love,  
conspire to make us one with You  
for the world You so deeply love. Amen.**

### THE READINGS

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14 (NRSVUE)

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel

## Luke 2:1-20 (NRSVUE)

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

## WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

### \* HOLY COMMUNION

\* CAROL #147

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

### \* INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast.  
Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul.  
We receive the bread and the fruit of the vine connected to the ages:  
to the saint of old who felt unworthy,  
to the seeker eager to know God,  
to the teenager who wonders what it's all about,  
to the child who eats with unburdened faith.  
Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations.  
There is great joy here.  
No one is turned away for God is the host!

\* CAROL #147

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

### \* PRAYER

God is in this place.  
**And in our hearts.**  
Open yourself to the nudging God.  
**We feel the breath of the Spirit.**  
Remember God made flesh.  
**Jesus, who taught us a new way.**  
Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table,  
to taste the feast,  
the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith.  
Time and time again you've offered your grace,  
even as we have stepped away,  
You continue to call us to be your people.  
You have never left us.  
We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances.  
You are ever-patient, always faithful.



We give thanks for this time of celebration.  
For the One this meal remembers.  
For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
With those who have gone before us,  
whose hands touched the bread,  
whose lips embraced the cup,  
We worship you.  
We glorify you.  
This is the mystery of our faith:

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

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.

\* CAROL #147

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

\* THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.

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

“This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat.”

And pouring the fruit of the vine into the cup, he blessed it saying:

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

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

“This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

\* PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, send power upon these gifts, your bread and your cup.  
God of all, send your Spirit to this place  
so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment,  
may know your presence.

As we eat the bread and drink of the cup,  
make us one with the saints,  
and with our sisters, siblings and brothers in faith around the world.  
Be with us God, not only here but in every moment of our lives.

Help us  
To know you,  
To be guided by the Holy Spirit,  
And to live Christ.  
Now and forever.

\* PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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

We pray for...

Trenton Adams, Ruth Finley, Billy Augustus, JoAnn Hood, Donna Sue Buchanan,  
David Kropf, Amy Wheeler, Shelley Wheeler, Madison,  
Timothy Truitt, Darlene, Tom Kirkbrick, Cathy Clegg, Linda White

We pray 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.**

\* CALL TO THE FEAST

This is the feast prepared for you.  
Come and share for all is ready.

\* SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

*Infant Holy Infant Lowly*

Trad. Polish Carol  
arr. Richard Proulx

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping vigil 'til the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow,  
Christ the babe was born for you.

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

**Creative, connecting God,  
you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ;  
From child-like faith, to youthful energy,  
from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom..  
We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen.**

\* HYMN

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH  
Arr. Lloyd Larson

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

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

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

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Walk no more in gloom and shadows.  
The light of Christ will shine within and among us.

**We will look to that light on life's journey.  
The one called Wonderful Counselor walks with us.**

Lift one another's burdens and sing together for joy.  
The grace of God has appeared to save us.

**We will center our lives on Jesus Christ.  
God calls us to faithfulness and good deeds.**

Carry the peace of Christ into the world.  
Glorify and praise God in all you do.

**We will tell of what we have seen and heard.  
The good news of great joy is for all people.**

\* CHOIR ANTHEM

*Still, Still, Still*

Austrian Carol  
Arr. by Norman Luboff

\* HYMN

*Silent Night*

STILLE NACHT  
Franz Gruber  
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.**

*Musical Interlude*

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing**

**“Alleluia” to our King, “Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born.”**

*(People are encouraged to leave in silence.)*

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

*Psalm 73:26*



**We continue to keep in our prayers:**

Trenton Adams, Ruth Finley, Billy Augustus, JoAnn Hood, Donna Sue Buchanan,  
David Kropf, Amy Wheeler, Shelley Wheeler, Madison,  
Timothy Truitt, 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.*

### **Pastor's Welcome**

It is with great joy and gratitude  
that I welcome you here to the  
First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland-  
The Old Stone 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 the  
First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland-  
The Old Stone Church  
continue to be your spiritual home  
in the years ahead.

Yours In Christ,  
Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams



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

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



*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing;  
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness.  
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.



By entering The Old Stone Church and by your presence here, you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded.  
Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

<p>Online Giving:  <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a></p>	<p>Mobile Giving:          Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256</p>
<p>Mail to:          Old Stone Church          Attn: Financial Office          91 Public Square          Cleveland, OH 44113</p>	<p>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.</p>

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*

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*

**Chamber Orchestra**

Emily Cornelius, *violin*

Nico Moulthrop, *viola*

Sameer Apte, *cello*

Mary Kay Robinson, *flute*

Ian Daugherty, *oboe*

Andrew Pongracz, *percussion*

**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