



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 29, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>How Great Our Joy!</i>	Craig Courtney
WELCOME		Pastor Denise Clark-Jones
INTROIT	<i>Star Carol</i>	John Rutter

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!

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Men and women, old and young, together:
Praise God and exalt the Author of Life.

Praise God in the highest heavens.

Praise God, all dwellers on the earth.

God commanded, and we were created.
God sustains us and enables us to grow.

Praise God who seeks to live in faithfulness.

Glorify God's name and join the loving community.

Know that we are chosen by God, holy and beloved.

We are called into one body, the church of Jesus Christ.

Let us draw close to God and to one another.

Let us Join with all creation to worship God.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Height and breadth, length and depth,

the whole universe proclaims your glory, faithful God.

Your wisdom fills the universe with possibilities we have not tapped.

Your Word comes to us filled with riches we have not mined.

Within ourselves is the potential for greatness as yet unrealized.

Confront us here with your eternal claim on us

that we may become the kind, compassionate,

and patient people you intend for us to be.

Amen.

* HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Melissa Maffia

God were dependent on our communication to know
 where we are or who we are, would God know us?
 We expect of God evidence and signs of caring.
 Does not God, who gave us life,
 have the right to expect to hear from us daily in prayer?
 How have we cut ourselves off from God?
 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

**Heavenly Parent,
we have wandered away to pursue our own agenda.
We have laid aside your expectation
that we will forbear one another and forgive.
We harbor grudges against people.
There are some we neglect and some we disdain.
We have viewed them neither as your beloved
nor as our sisters and brothers.
The peace of Christ does not rule in our hearts.
Your truth is not what flows from our lips
or finds expression in our actions.
O God, turn us around,
that what we do may be a genuine expression of your love,
through Jesus Christ.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON #576

SINGAPURA

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has already forgiven us.
When we are truly sorry and repent of our neglect
and our wrongful thoughts and deeds,
we are able to accept that forgiveness.
God offers healing for our brokenness.
The scars of resentment against others are taken away so we can forgive them.
The love of God enables us to love.
Praise God from the earth.
Draw close to the eternal
and exalt the name of the one who rules all time and space.
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 #113

Christmas Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Daniel W. Laginya

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
we respond to God's forgiveness and empowerment
with thanksgiving and praise.

As we have been blessed, so we share.

May our offerings express compassion and kindness within our faith community
and in our outreach to our immediate surroundings and to the world.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Breath of Heaven

Amy Grant/Chris Eaton

I have travelled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside,
And I wonder what I've done, Holy Father,

You have come and chosen me now to carry Your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.

In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone? Be with me now.

Breath of Heaven hold me together, be forever near me breath of Heaven.

Breath of Heaven lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness, for you are holy.

Breath of Heaven

Do You wonder as You watch my face? If a wiser one should have had my place.
But I offer all I am, for the mercy of Your plan. Help me be strong, help me be, help me.

* 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

Melissa Maffia

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We are thankful for the love that gave us life,
for the mission that gives purpose to our days,
and for the peace that Christ grants to us.**

**Keep us from needless anxiety,
that we may give without counting the cost.**

**We give ourselves as well as our money,
that your Word may spread where it is not known
and take root where it has not been heeded.**

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

**By the breath of your Spirit, inspire us,
that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled
with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do,
for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 148 (NRSVUE)

(Read responsively by whole verse)

¹ Praise YHWH!

Praise YHWH from the heavens;
praise YHWH in the heights!

² **Praise YHWH, all you angels;
praise YHWH, all you host!**

³ Praise YHWH, sun and moon;
praise YHWH, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise YHWH, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of YHWH,
for YHWH commanded and they were created.

⁶ **YHWH established them forever and ever;
YHWH fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise YHWH from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling YHWH's command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of YHWH,
for YHWH's name alone is exalted;
YHWH's glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **YHWH has raised up a horn for YHWH's people,
praise for all YHWH's faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to YHWH.
Praise YHWH!**

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52 (NRSVUE)

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for Jesus among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When Jesus' parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." Jesus said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what Jesus said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL/HYMN SING

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

"Let Heaven and Nature Sing!"



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 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Teach and admonish one another in all wisdom.

We will spend time in study and prayer.

We will listen and speak as God inspires us.

Put on—as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved—
compassion, kindness, meekness, and patience.

We will forgive as we have been forgiven.

We will put on love that binds us in perfect harmony.

The peace of Christ will rule in your hearts.

You will know God's favor day after day.

We will praise God's name in all we do.

We will join with faithful people to give daily thanks.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

All Glory Be to God on High

Michael Burkhardt

*“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,
Matt Spevak and family, the Rohal family

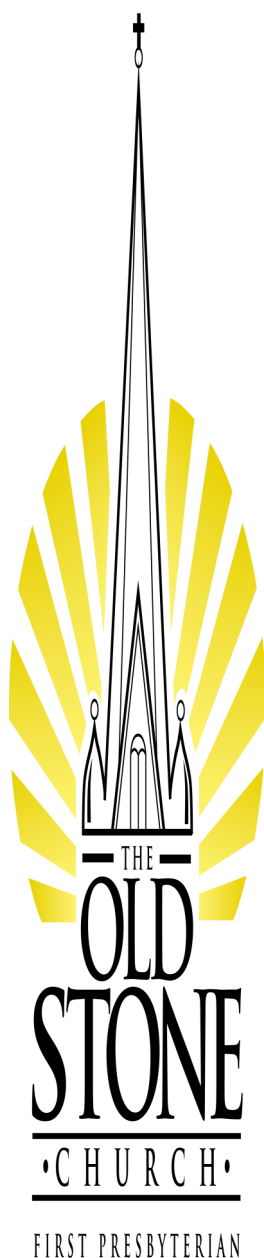
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



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.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday December 29

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

4:00PM Browns/Dolphins

Tuesday December 31

6:00PM New Years Eve Service/Chapel

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday January 1

Building and Offices Closed

Thursday January 2

Building and Offices Closed

Sunday January 5/Epiphany

10:00AM Worship with Communion

Tuesday January 7

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday January 8

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Romans: A Letter for Today/ZOOM

Thursday January 9

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday January 12

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

Tuesday January 14

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday January 15

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

7:00PM Romans: A Letter for Today/ZOOM

Thursday January 16

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:78

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

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

Website: www.OldStoneChurch.org E-Mail: info@OldStoneChurch.org

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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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