



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 31, 2024  
NEW YEARS EVE

6:00pm Chapel Worship

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight we keep watch.

**Tonight we say goodbye to the old year  
and look hopefully into the new year.**

Though the darkness is deep, the Light of the World guides our way.

**Even though we don't really know what is to come,  
we know that God is with us.**

Quietly, reverently, open your hearts to God.

**Praise be to God,  
Who was and is and is to be.  
Amen.**

\* OPENING PRAYER

Lord of the opening way, we bring to you this night our past,  
 with all that has happened in our lives,  
 our hopes and our dreams,  
 our successes and our failures,  
 our gains and our losses.  
 We bring to you our present,  
 lives filled with exhaustion, wonder, fear, concern.  
 We come to you with hearts open to receive your word for us, for the future.  
 We want to be a part of your new heaven and earth,  
 to serve you by serving others.  
 Speak to us, heal us, teach us, lead us,  
 for we ask these things in Jesus' Name.

**Amen.**

\* HYMN

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

BEGININGS

*Unison*

1 This is a day of new be - gin-nings, time to re - mem - ber  
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might-y Spir - it,  
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and  
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what  
 \*4 *In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble to taste and share what*

and move on, time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 now as then, can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin - nings;  
 love can do. *This is a day of new be - gin - nings;*

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

What are human beings, that God cares for us?  
We have misused the world of God's hands,  
squandering resources for our immediate pleasure,  
destroying the earth for which God has given us responsibility.  
It is time for us to repent and seek salvation.

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, you have asked us to feed and give drink to those who hunger,  
to clothe those who are naked, to welcome the stranger,  
to visit those who are sick and imprisoned.  
When we look back on the year we might be able to say  
we did some of those things.  
We remember the enthusiasm  
with which we started out this waning year,  
ready to go to work and witness to your love.  
But you know how things got in our way.  
We allowed ourselves to be swallowed up by worries and fear.  
We placed comfort of self before service to others.  
We took the "easy way out" whenever we could.  
And you wept for us.  
Now we are on the brink of a new year.  
We cannot change what we did not do,  
but we can make a covenant with you to be your witness  
in our words, thoughts and deeds to your people so that when you say,  
"Have you given food and drink to those who hunger and thirst,  
have you clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger,  
visited the sick and imprisoned?"  
We can respond with a joyful  
"Yes! Lord, we have done these things with joy and love!"  
Forgive us what we have not done.  
Inspire us to do what you would have us do.  
In Jesus' Name, we pray.**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is making all things new.  
The past is over and it taught us many lessons.  
But God is the God of the future, new opportunities,  
new hopes, new dreams, renewed vision.  
God dwells with us to be our God.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

**Amen.**

\* PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, our God, how incredible and magnificent is your name in all the earth.  
Your voice spoke the word of light and the light was given.  
Your heart shouted hope and love and creation was born.  
Your tears cried torrents for your errant people,  
and your prophets boldly stepped forward to proclaim your presence.  
Your Love streamed down and Jesus the Christ came to us,  
to heal, teach, guide, and bring us to you.  
Your Power hovered over us, like a mighty flame, inspiring us to your witnesses.  
How magnificent and wonderful you are, O Lord.  
Now the old is passing away and a new heaven and earth are being born.  
Lord, we want to be ready to serve you in your new heaven and new earth.  
We need to let go of the disappointments and fears,  
and open our hearts to receive your love and blessings for us.  
This is a time of new beginnings.  
The past we cannot change.  
We can reflect on all that has happened  
and move on into new relationship with you.  
Let the light of your love shine on us,  
that we may feel and know your powerful presence with us.  
Let the light of your love shine in us,  
that we may be encouraged to use our gifts and talents to serve others.  
Let the light of your love shine through us,  
that others may come to know you. In this time of new beginnings, new hopes  
arise. Give us courage to reach out for the dreams and hopes;  
give us confidence that we can accomplish much for you.

**Amen.**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

There is a time for everything, a season for every purpose under heaven:

a season to be born and a season to die;

a season to plant and a season to harvest;

a season to hurt and a season to heal;

a season to tear down and a season to build up;

a season to cry and a season to laugh;

a season to mourn and a season to dance;

a season to scatter stones and a season to gather them;

a season to holding close and a season for holding back;

a season to seek and a season to lose;

a season to keep and a season to throw away;

a season to tear and a season to mend;

a season to be silent and a season to speak;

a season to love and a season to hate;

a season for hostilities and a season for peace.

What do workers gain from their efforts?

I have reflected on this while learning all the kinds of work God gives to

humankind. God has made everything in harmony with the divine;

yet although the Almighty has imbued eternity in our soul, we are unable to grasp

the totality of God's work from beginning to end.

### PSALM 8

YHWH, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

You have placed your glory above the heavens!

**From the lips of infants and children**

**you bring forth words of power and praise,**

**to answer your adversaries and to silence the hostile and vengeful.**

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars which you set in place—

**what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?**

**Who are we that you should care for us?**

You have made us barely less than God,

and crowned us with glory and honor.

**You have made us responsible for the works of your hands,**

**putting all things at our feet—**

all sheep and oxen, yes,

even the beasts of the field,

**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**

**and whatever swims the paths of the seas.**

YHWH, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

\* HYMN

Ring Out, Wild Bells

GANFALON ROYAL

- 132

1. Ring out, wild bells, to the wild, wild sky, the fly - ing  
 2. Ring out the old, ring in the new, ring, hap - py  
 3. Ring out the grief that saps the mind for those that  
 4. Ring out false pride in place and blood, the civ - ic

cloud, the frost - y light: the year is dy - ing  
 bells, a - cross the snow: the year is go - ing,  
 here we see no more; ring out the feud of  
 slan - der and the spite; ring in the love of

in the night; ring out, wild bells, and let it die.  
 let it go; ring out the false, ring in the true.  
 rich and poor; ring in re - dress to hu - man - kind.  
 truth and right; ring in the com - mon love of good.

Words: Alfred Lord Tennyson, 1809-1892  
 Music: Percy Carter Buck, 1871-1947, © Oxford University Press

GANFALON ROYAL  
 L.M.

## LITANY

**It is dark. We cannot see very far.**

Do not fear. God alone can see what lies ahead.

**We have suffered much, loved much, lost much.**

Do not fear. God knows your hearts and fears.

**We have dreamed and watched as dreams have floated away, unfulfilled.**

Do not fear. God is with you.

Do not let fear and darkness overcome you.

God has given the Light for your path.

**The silence sometimes overwhelms us. The past still shouts loudly at us.**

Do not fear. God is with you.

Give your hearts and spirits to the Lord!

**Lord, we give our hearts and spirit to you this night.**

Let go of your fears. Place your trust in the Lord.

**Lord, we give our fears to you. Heal us, Lord.**

## BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF HOPE

The darkness is banished.

The Light of God's love is with us.

Come, receive the light!

*(You are invited to come forward and light a candle and place it in the bowl.)*

Look at the Light. How beautiful it is to us, gathered in this darkness.

Behold, says the Lord, I create a new heaven and a new earth;

for the old has vanished away.

In this new earth we are called to ministries of love and service.

Let these lights remind you that even one small candle in the darkness sheds light on someone's path.

And where many candles are gathered,

much light is given, much can be done.

Praise be to God, who is the Light and gives us the Light of Hope.

**Amen.**

## A PRAYER FOR LIFE

Source of all life, we pray for life.

Bless us, once more, with a year of life

so that we may be privileged to complete the year we have just begun.

**Despite the burdens and the heartbreaks,  
the pains and perils, we want to live;  
we ask to be inscribed in the Book of Life.**

But even as we pray that years may be added to our lives,

we ask, too, that true life may be added to our years.

**May the new year be for us a time for enhancing the quality  
of our lives, enriching their content, deepening their meaning.**

Help us to keep our minds alive.

May we be open to new ideas, entertain challenging doubts,

re-examine long-held opinions, nurture a lively curiosity,

and strive to add to our store of knowledge.

**Help us to keep our hearts alive.  
May we develop greater compassion,  
be receptive to new friendships,  
sustain a buoyant enthusiasm,  
grow more sensitive to the beauty which surrounds us.**

Help us to keep our souls alive.

May we be more responsive to the needs of others,

less vulnerable to consuming greed,

more attentive to the craving for fellowship, and more devoted to truth.

**Help us to keep our spirits alive.  
May we face the future with confidence,  
knowing that every age has its unique joys and satisfactions,  
each period in our lives a glory of its own.**

Help us to keep our faith alive.

May we be sustained by the knowledge

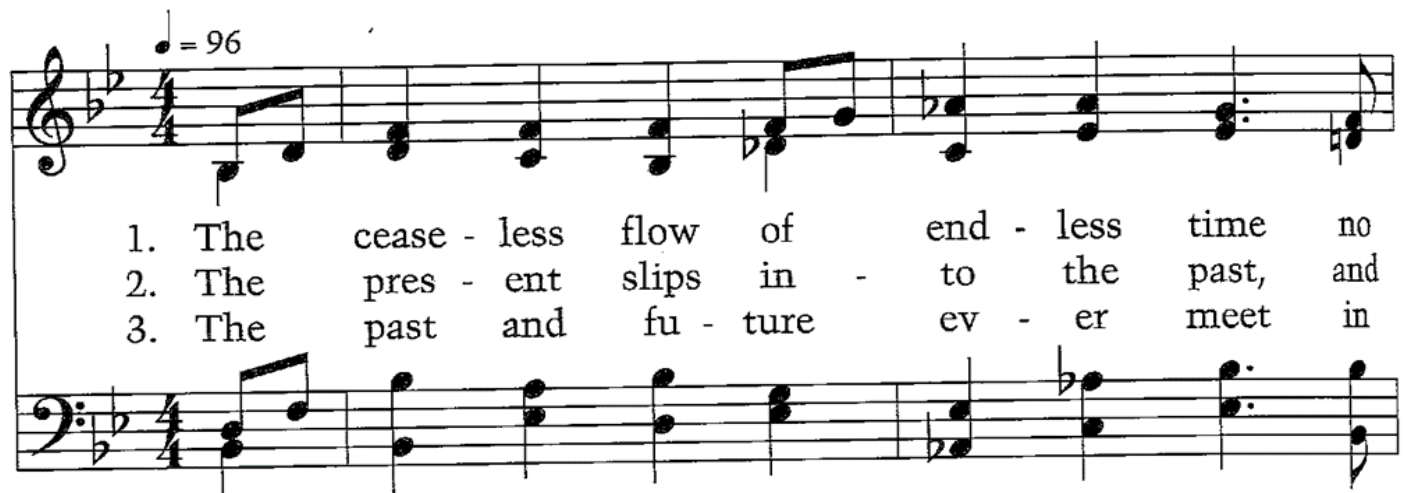
that You have planted within us life eternal

and have given us the power to live beyond our years.

**Whether our years be few or many, help us to link our lives to  
the life of our people and to our eternal faith.**




$\bullet = 96$



1. The cease - less flow of end - less time no  
 2. The pres - ent slips in - to the past, and  
 3. The past and fu - ture ev - er meet in



one can check or stay; we'll view the past with  
 dream - like melts a - way; the break - ing of to -  
 the e - ter - nal now: to make each day a



no re - gret, nor fu - ture with dis - may.  
 mor - row's dawn be - gins a new to - day.  
 thing com - plete shall be our New Year vow.

⊕ Words: John Andrew Storey, 1935–1997  
 Music: African American spiritual, c. 1750–1875, adapt. and harmony by  
 Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

MCKEE  
 C.M.

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Go from this place; not into darkness, although it might be night!  
Go into the Light of God's eternal, inspiring Love.  
Go to be those who bring peace, love, hope and joy.  
And God will always be with you.

**Amen.**





A NEW YEAR  
by Michael Ochs

May this be a year of love and kindness.  
May strangers come to be friends.  
May truth and compassion always guide us.  
Amen.

May this be a year of hope and healing  
For all of those in need.  
May all of our deeds be a blessing  
Amen.

A new year, a gold year  
A chance to start all over.  
A new year, a sweet year  
A chance to bring us closer.

May this be a year of selfless giving  
May this be a year of peace.  
And may we forgive  
And be forgiven  
Amen.

Closer to the ones we love  
A world to be proud of  
Long as there are stars above  
There comes a New Year.  
Amen.

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 "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](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*

### 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

