



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 5, 2025
EPIPHANY WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Noel Regney, Gloria Shayne

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT Star Carol 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

Arise, shine; for your light has come.
The glory of God has risen among us.

We are awake; we are alive!

Praise God for deliverance and blessings.

Lift up your eyes to see all around you.
Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

**May justice water the earth like a shower;
let righteousness and peace abound.**

Receive again the promises of the gospel.
Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

God's ways are being revealed to us today.

Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Eternal God,

**because your purposes become clear to us in Jesus Christ,
we come with boldness to claim our relationship with you.**

**We are grateful for pioneers in the faith whose stewardship
has salvaged for us a way of life rooted in the gospel.**

**The flames you ignited in them have not gone out,
in spite of our faithlessness.**

**Your wisdom is still proclaimed in the church,
challenging centers of earthly power with the claims of heaven.**

Today our search for meaning has led us to this place of worship.

You are here; we rejoice!

* HYMN #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, the lyrics are written in five lines, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two lines of music.

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais-ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

TEXT and MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT
 8.8.8.6 with refrain

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Harriet Niles

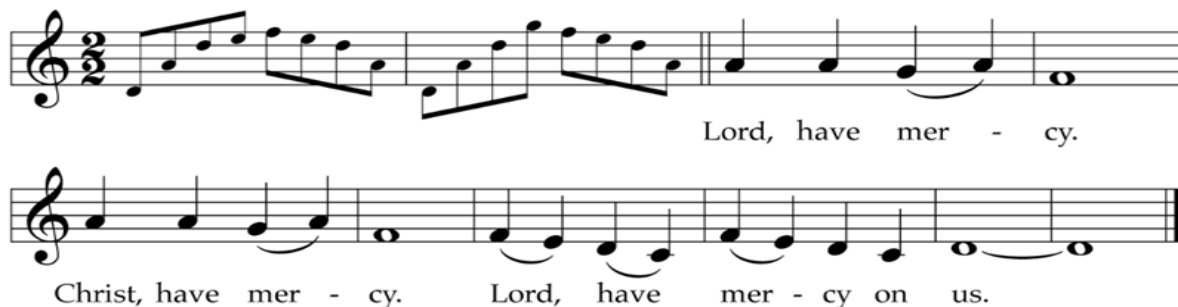
The Epiphany season celebrates God's inclusiveness.
 The mystery of Jesus Christ is revealed,
 not to an elite few, but to the whole world.
 Yet we continue to build barriers to protect our own interests
 and keep others at a distance.
 If loyalty to God calls for accepting and embracing all God's children in love,
 we have much to confess.
 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 light,
we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion.
How often we choose to associate with people who are like us
and then look down on others who differ from us.
It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own.
We judge the poor and join their oppressors,
while you call us to identify with those in need,
that all may prosper together.
We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace,
while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore.
Save us from our earthbound judgments,
that we may look up and be guided by the star
that draws all people to yourself.
Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you.**
(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

Through faith in Jesus Christ,
we can come to Almighty God in boldness and confidence,
assured of the gift of grace and empowerment of the Spirit.
Lift up your eyes to see the glory of God.
Receive light and healing,
for God has come to dwell in us and among us.
Let your hearts rejoice and your faces be radiant
as we share the abundance of God's love.

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:

We are stewards of God's grace,
entrusted with the unsearchable riches of Christ,
channels through which the wisdom of God is offered to the world.
Our prosperity gives us the marvelous opportunity to share.
What treasures will we offer today to honor Christ?
What costly offerings will be given with joy and worshipful devotion?
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *A Child is Born in Bethlehem* Craig Phillips

Commissioned to honor Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, Christmas 2022 by her husband Tom.

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia! Therefore, rejoice Jerusalem, Alleluia!
Come, join the angel throng in songs of joy, in one accord adoring Christ the Lord.
The babe within a manger poor, will rule the world for ever more.
Come, join the angel throng in songs of joy, in one accord adoring Christ the Lord.
Upon this joyful Holy night, we bless your Name, O Lord of light.
We praise you, Holy Trinity, adoring you eternally.
Come, join the angel throng in songs of joy, in one accord adoring Christ the Lord.

* DOXOLOGY #607 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow* 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 Harriet Niles

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**For the joy of giving,
we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church,
in outreach to the world.
With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, and needy,
we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates.
Out of devotion to Christ,
we commit our best, that the church may bear witness
among the principalities and powers of this world.
Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards.
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:

**Spirit of God,
in the proclamation of your Word,
reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ,
and strengthen our faith
that we may approach you with boldness.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12 (Inclusive Bible)

For I, Paul—a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— am sure that you have heard of God's grace, of which I was made a steward on your behalf; this mystery, as I have briefly described it, was given to me by revelation. When you read this, you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was unknown to the people of former ages, but now revealed by the Spirit to holy apostles and prophets. That mystery is that the Gentiles are heirs, as we are; members of the Body, as we are; and partakers of the promise of Jesus the Messiah through the Good News, as we are.

I became a minister of the Good News by the gift of divine grace given to me through the working of God's power. To me, the least of all believers, was given the grace to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ and to enlighten all people on the mysterious design which for ages was hidden in God, the Creator of all.

Now, therefore, through the church, God's manifold wisdom is made known to the rulers and powers of heaven, in accord with the age-old design, carried out in Christ Jesus our Savior, in whom we have boldness and confident access to God through our faith in Christ.

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

With God's help we are listening.

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage."

At this news, Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked of them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
since from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too." After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them till it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star and upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage.

Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"A Bold and Confident People"

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word DICKINSON COLLEGE

Ruth Duck, 1989

Isa. 60:19-20; Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11

1 O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal
2 Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too tired to
3 Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the font where
4 O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; our faith and

love re - vealed in time: Come, make your home with - in our
care, too numb to feel. Come, shine up - on our shad - owed
we were born a - new. At - tune your church to know you
hope and love re - new. Come, lead the peo - ples to your

hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.
world: your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.
near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.
peace, as stars once led the way to you.

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

This is the joyful feast of the People of God.
Men and women, youth and children,
come from the east and the west,
the north and the south and gather about Christ's table.
This table is for all who wish to know
the presence of Christ
and to share in the community of God's people.
It is not my table,
It is not Old Stone First Presbyterian Church's table,
it is the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
and all are welcome to receive.

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.
We give thanks, O Lord,
that the days are surely coming when all the world will see
the fulfillment of your promise of salvation.
You alone are our righteousness,
our only hope for justice and peace.
Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

* HYMN #552

Holy, Holy, Holy

LAND OF REST

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a key signature of one flat (F major) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is: F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Chords above the staff are: F, C, F, Bb, C, F. Lyrics below: 1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the; 2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the.

The second staff continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter). Chords below the staff are: (A) C, (D/F#) F/A, (F#m) Am, (G) Bb, (A) C, (Bm) Dm. Lyrics below: pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are; name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the.

The third staff continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter). Chords below the staff are: (G) Bb, (D) F, (A) C, (Bm) Dm, (Em7) Gm7, (A) C, (Dsus) Fsus, (D) F. Lyrics below: full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.; high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 In Christ, the tree of life, we have seen the first fruits of your holy realm.
 Though heaven and earth may pass away, Christ's word stands secure.
 Even now, we look for the day of his coming in power and great glory.
 Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation
 this bread and the fruit of the vine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
 as we await the day of his coming.
 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:

* HYMN # 553

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

LAND OF REST

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
 B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C F^{sus} F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of his arrest, Jesus gathered around table with his companions.
 He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

**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.

“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He did the same with the cup after the supper, 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 is the new covenant sealed in my blood.
 Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.”

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit, unite us with Christ
and with your church in all the world.
Teach us to pray night and day
that we may see you face to face.
Strengthen us in holiness, faithfulness, joy,
and love so that we may be ready
at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

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,
Lori Montero and family, Matt Spevak and family
We pray for the repose of the soul of Marjorie Potts,
may her memory be a blessing.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

Sanctify and shape us into the image of Christ's body,
so that our lives may be a holy offering of love and praise.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

HYMN # 554

Amen

LAND OF REST

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written in treble clef. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: Bb, C, Dm, Bb, F, C, Dm, Gm7, C, Fsus, F. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating that the notes are sustained across the measures.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.

You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

Take this bread, share the fruit of the vine.
In these Christ comes to us with love from God.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol
Arr. by Norman Luboff

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth

Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number,
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**O God, through this bread and this cup,
you have made us one with You
and with each other.
May the unity we find at this table
be a gift we carry out into Your world.
May this unity empower us
to make room for all of God's people. Amen.**



1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -



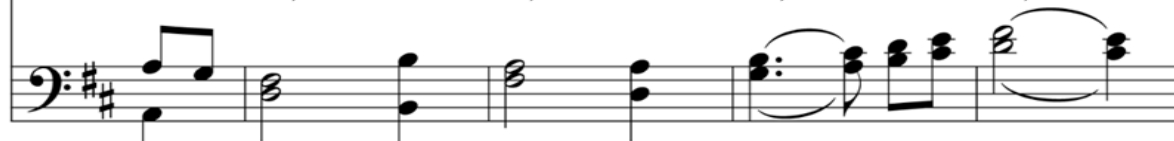
shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop



their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.



5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God sends us on our way, a bold and confident people.
Look up, and be guided by the star of joy.

We will open our eyes to the presence of God.

We will look for God's activity all around us.

God's purposes in Christ are to be lived out by us.
We are called to invite others to share in God's grace.

We will witness to all we have seen and heard.

By God's power, we will minister to others.

The glory of God has risen among us.

We are blessed beyond all deserving.

What we have received, we pass on with joy.

We offer to all the unsearchable riches of Christ

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old

Raymond H. Haan

*“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,
Lori Montero and family, Matt Spevak and family

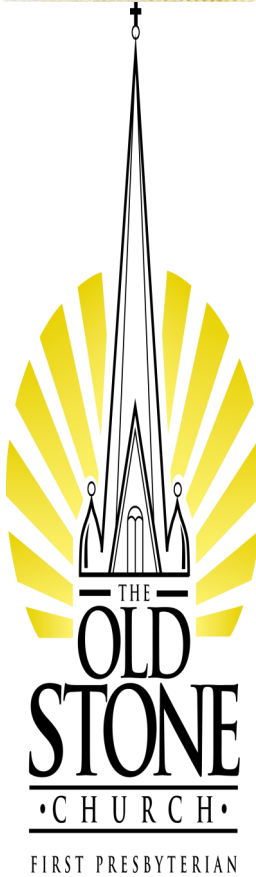
We pray for the repose of the soul of Marjorie Potts,
may her memory be a blessing.

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.



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



@ Old Stone Church

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

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

Tuesday January 14

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

Wednesday January 15

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday January 16

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

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:56 Online:186



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 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

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Janie Chambers

Fred Heider

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Church Deacons:

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

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Lori Lippert

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

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