



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 12, 2025  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE "Overture" from *Cantata No. 147* Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *Create in Me* John Purifoy

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me, I pray.  
Restore to me now the joy of salvation and hold me with Thy free spirit.  
Create in me, a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather from East and West, from North and South.  
God is calling us; listen, for God is naming you.

**The voice of God thunders through our midst.**

**The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty.**

Bow in awe before the one who created you.

God knows you completely yet accepts you.

**The voice of God commands our attention.**

**The voice of God is like fire and tornado.**

God reaches out to strengthen, not condemn us.

God brings us through terror to a place of peace.

**Ascribe to God glory and strength.**

**Worship God in awe, wonder, and joy!**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of cleansing waters and purifying fires,  
touch our lives today to recall us to the power of our baptism  
and our commitment to Jesus Christ.**

**Name us again as your own people:**

**precious, gifted, created to glorify you in fullness of life,  
in peace with ourselves and one another.**

**Send your Holy Spirit once more to energize our worship  
and enliven our witness in the world.**

**Hear us as we pray for one another  
and for your church in every place.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN #96

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW  
 LM  
 (alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Peggie Willett

We are baptized, set apart to be ministering people,  
 called to be agents of change,  
 created to give glory to God in word and deed.  
 The Holy Spirit has claimed us to be praying,  
 caring, giving disciples of Jesus Christ.  
 In this time of confession,  
 we acknowledge how far we are from what we were created to be.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for silent personal confession.  
 Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, the waters of faithfulness run deep,  
and we have been afraid they will overwhelm us.  
The fire of your Spirit burns brightly,  
and we fear we may be consumed  
if we display too much enthusiasm.  
We retreat to safe places where we hope to avoid  
challenges, conflicts, and uncertainty.  
We shrink from risks, we miss much that enriches life.  
We fail to notice your amazing activity  
among those who respond to your leading.  
Free us, we pray, for daring service.**

*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE ELEISON #551

*Lord, Have Mercy*

LAND OF REST



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

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has redeemed us, claimed us, called us by name.  
We are precious in God's sight.  
Surely our God will strengthen us to face times of difficulty.  
There are no safe hiding places in life,  
only the assurance of a relationship with a God  
whom we can trust in life and in death.  
Our God forgives and empowers.  
God blesses us with a peace  
that is more powerful than any outward circumstance.  
The assurances of God are eternal.

**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.  
God has gathered us from East and West, from North and South,  
to offer our best in worship and praise.  
Now we bring the fruits of our labor as an offering of thanks.  
We invest in people and programs, near and far,  
to benefit God's scattered children who have missed the majesty.  
Let our generosity aspire to match the lavish gifts of God.  
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Down to the River to Pray*

Traditional  
arr. Sheldon Curry

**R/.** As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the stary crown. Good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray.

**R/.** As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the robe and crown. Good Lord, show me the way.

O brothers, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**  
O fathers, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**  
O mothers, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**  
O sinners, let's go down, come on down. Down to the river to pray. **R/.**

\* 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

Peggie Willett

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**For bringing us safely to this hour,  
we give you thanks, O God of wind and fire.  
May our offerings honor you.  
May our lives reflect your mercy.  
May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received.  
May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ,  
in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving.  
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

**Glorious God,  
when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission  
the heavens opened in a flash of glory  
as vision and voice blazed upon the waters.  
May your Spirit so burn in us  
that we hear your word translated into deed  
and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture                      Isaiah 43:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob,  
    hear the word of YHWH—  
    the One who created you,  
    the One who fashioned you, Israel:  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;  
    I have called you by name; you are mine.  
When you pass through the seas, I will be with you,  
    when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown.  
Walk through fire, and you will not be singed;  
    walk through flames and you will not be burned.  
I am YHWH, your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer.  
I give Egypt as ransom for you,  
    Nubia and Seba in exchange for you.  
You are more precious to me than Assyria;  
    you are honored, and I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
    whole nations in exchange for your life.  
Have no fear, for I am with you;  
    I will bring your descendants from the east  
    and gather them from the west.  
To the north I will say, 'Give them up!'  
    and to the south, 'Do not hold them back!'  
Bring my daughters and sons from afar  
    return them from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my Name,  
    whom I created for my glory,  
    whom I formed and made!

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

**With God's help we are listening.**

## Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (Inclusive Bible)

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah, John answered them all by saying, "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire." When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"Baptized in Water and Fire"



## 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 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;  
 It is well with my soul;

it is well; it is well with my soul.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Dare to face the world in joyous freedom.

You have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**We pray for courage to do what is right.**

**We seek the strength to witness for peace.**

We are God's beloved children.

Let us seek to live in ways that are pleasing to God.

**God has created us for glory.**

**We will worship the God of power and strength.**

Even now God's hand of blessing rests on us.

The dove of peace descends upon us.

**We welcome the Spirit's presence among us.**

**We celebrate the Spirit's work within us. Praise God.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

*Shall We Gather at the River?*

Richard Elliott

*“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:**

Ruth Finley, Billy Augustus, JoAnn Hood,  
Donna Sue Buchanan, David Kropf, Shelley Wheeler,  
Bob Leathers and family, Lori Montero and family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Louise Leathers,  
may her memory be a blessing.

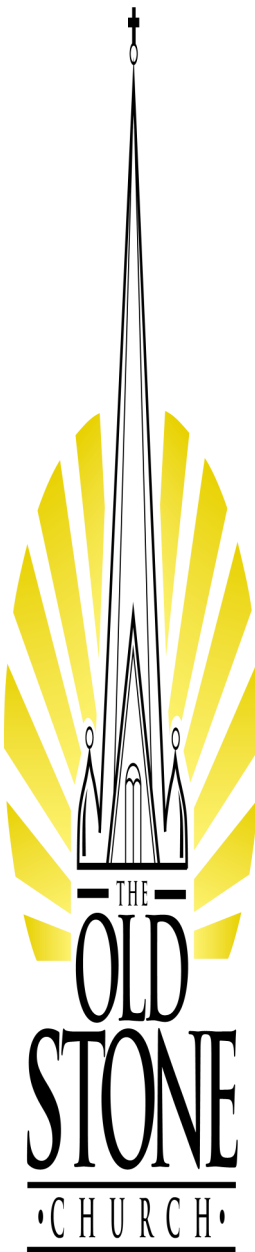
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

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



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 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

**Sunday January 19**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

**Monday January 20/Martin Luther King Day**

**All Day/Building and Offices Closed**

**Tuesday January 21**

**6:30PM** Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

**Wednesday January 22**

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

**7:00PM** *Romans: A Letter for Today* Book Study/ZOOM

**Sunday January 26**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Annual Meeting/Sanctuary

**Monday January 27**

**6:30PM** Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

**Tuesday January 28**

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

**Wednesday January 29**

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

**7:00PM** *Romans: A Letter for Today* Book Study/ZOOM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**Last Sunday Attendance** In-Person:63 Online:226

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

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Website: [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) E-Mail: [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto:info@OldStoneChurch.org)

Music copied under ccli#1638695  
onelicense#A-742406

**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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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.