



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm and 7pm Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Of The Father's Love Begotten* arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *Angels We Have Heard on High* French Carol
(Congregation is invited to sing along on the chorus)

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Light dispels the shadows in which we have lived.
A child is born; an heir is given.

**We have seen the light and are afraid;
we have seen the light and give thanks for it.**

All gifts may both threaten and delight,
for they bring change, and change upsets us.

**We want to walk in the ways of peace,
to uphold justice and righteousness.**

That means giving up some advantages
and caring enough to take risks for others.

**We want to respond to those who need us,
as the shepherds responded to the angels' song.**

Let us join in worship and celebration
that we may be equipped for every good work.

**We would praise and glorify God
and ready ourselves to share the good news.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Giver of light,
who breaks yokes of oppression,
we rejoice at words of promise,
reminding us that all oppression is a violation of your purposes.
We welcome the embodiment of peace in the babe of Bethlehem.
May the little child lead us and our nation
to embrace those attitudes and actions that lead to true peace,
peace that brings equity and opportunity for all.
As we join hearts and minds in joyous worship,
ready us to serve your peaceful purposes in days that follow.
Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Collins Family (5PM)
Ted and Kristy Sawicki (7PM)

Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.
O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!
With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us.
This is the time of light and resplendent joy.
The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time
when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light.
A light would shine and a child would be born to us.
The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song
of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!"
John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh.
This great light lives among us.
By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth.
At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us.
 Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor.
 In every corner of the world, shine with your peace.
 In every corner of our hearts, shine with your grace. Amen.

Cantor:

Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night;
 Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.
 Glory be to God and peace on earth Christ is born! Alleluia!

Congregation:

**Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night;
 Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.
 Glory be to God and peace on earth Christ is born! Alleluia!**

* HYMN #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um-phunt; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Cherice May (5PM)

Ruth Finley (7PM)

Will the light make a difference in our lives?
Will the new life appearing in Bethlehem awaken new life within us?
We are invited to make life-changing confession before the God of justice
who calls us to renounce impiety and worldly possessions.
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 are frightened by what you might expect of us
if we get too close to the manger.
Many enticements draw our attention away from this holy place.
Our worldly passions have led us into comfortable ruts.
We admit that some are mere time-killers
but others seem to have real value to us.
What more can a baby offer us?
Of what use is a Messiah who ends up on a cross?
O God, teach us what salvation is all about.
Heal the emptiness that gives rise to our misplaced loyalties
and distorted dreams.
We want to be whole people, experiencing wholesome relationships,
giving ourselves to worthy causes.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE #576

SINGAPURA

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Child of Bethlehem
becomes for us the Wonderful Counselor
whose life points us to new priorities.
Away from our frantic busyness,
we find true peace on our knees.
The truth is dawning in us and among us.
Good news of great joy fills us with hope.
Glory to God in the highest heaven!

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.

Cantor

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Congregation

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.
Ascribe to the Sovereign the glory that is due;
bring an offering in response to God's mighty acts.
Come with thanksgiving to the place where new birth occurs,
and the boots of trampling warriors are stilled.
Worship God with your gifts.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother?
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing "The Christ child is born"

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him
Seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their savior
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing "The Christ child is born"

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger
Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow
Shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing "The Christ child is born"

* DOXOLOGY #136 verse 1 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night.

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Cherice May (5PM)

Ruth Finley (7PM)

Let us pray:

We give because you have given so much to us.

**We give because we believe in the way of peace
that Christmas proclaims.**

We give to build right relations among us and with you.

We give to build a peaceful world.

May your shalom reign here

**and spread through all those causes and persons
whom we equip with our offerings.**

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Grant Us Lord

STUTT GART

Grant us, Lord, the grace of giving with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer unto thee. Amen.



WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Loving God,
by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary,
to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Titus 3:4-7 (Inclusive Bible)

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, we were saved, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of God’s own mercy. We were saved through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit God lavished on us through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that we might be justified through grace and become heirs to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20 (Inclusive Bible)

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. The first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over the flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David’s city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying, “Glory to God in high heaven!
And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
“Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known
to us.” They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger;
once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child.
All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.
Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.
The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard
and seen, just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Mary’s Boy Child”

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* A SUNG COMMUNION LITURGY

Tune: GREENSLEEVES

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.

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

***Lift, lift your hearts up high!
Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

God breathed in us the breath of life.
God gave the gift of Eden.
We turned away and sin was born;
We sought for greener gardens.

***Lift, lift your hearts up high!
Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

God called to us from age to age
through messengers and prophets,
When we would not our hearts give way,
the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

***This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

O Holy God of power and might!
Hosanna in excelsis!
Blessed be the One who in your name comes!
Hosanna in the highest!

***This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!
He preached good news: the kingdom come!
A light shone in the darkness.

***Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh;
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

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...

Regina George, Katherine McIntosh, Thelma Omsby, Kendalle Cobb,
John Davis, Bart Alcorn, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Jean Rundlett, Gail, Debbie Carrick, Sandy Colombo,
Barbara Yoost, Charles Rabb, Renita Jackson-Dix, Eileen Kelly,
Tony and Annie Carlos, Marlon Naylor, Courtney Knapp, Mark Corey,
Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga,
the Erow family, the Adams family, the Eisaman family

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.**

Fill us with wisdom and understanding,
knowledge and power,
and grant that we may live in harmony with one another
as we await the coming of the kingdom of heaven.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

And on the night, he was betrayed,
Christ took the bread and broke it.
Thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember, when you eat it!"

***Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh;
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.
From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."

***Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh;
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

***Raise, raise the song on high!
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

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

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

Bogoroditse Devo

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Rejoice, O virgin mother of God, Mary full of grace,
the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among
women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne the saviour of our souls

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

**Thank God for Holy Mystery; Body of Christ;
the gift of life!
As we depart, let us take heart:
God's light will lead us always!**

***Raise, raise the song on high!
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

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

Go forth as light-bearers and peacemakers,
heralds of God's good news to the world.

**What a joy it is to be God's messengers,
to end oppression and proclaim justice.**

Renounce irreligious and worldly passions,
for God sets you free from bondage to things.

**How exhilarating it is to venture in new paths
without the burden of envy and greed.**

Christ came as God's greatest gift,
to redeem us from all iniquity.

**We venture forth, eager to do good
and live sensitive, balanced, and purpose-filled lives.**

See for yourselves what God has done.

Live among others the good news of great joy.

**We leave this time of worship,
glorifying and praising God for all we have seen and heard.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,
And give you peace,
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you
Amen



**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.”**

(You are encouraged to leave in silence.)



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

December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve
Worship with Communion at 5PM and 7PM

December 25, 2025 Christmas Day
Carols with Communion 10AM

December 28, 2025 First Sunday of Christmas
Worship 10AM

December 31, 2025 New Year's Eve
Chapel/Worship 6PM

January 4, 2026 Epiphany
Worship with Communion 10AM

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



There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

oldstonechurch.org/giving/

Mobile Giving:

Text the keyword “oldstonecle” to 73256

Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



Checks should be made payable to “The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.”

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

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

Music copied under ccli#1638695

Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Chamber Orchestra

Minchae Kim, *violin*

Kiarra Saito Beckman, *violin*

Victoria Goettel, *viola*

Katarina Davies, *cello*

Evan M. Collins, *organ*

Katelynn Croft, *harp*

Mary Kay Robinson, *flute*

Hunter Duseau, *clarinet*

Andrew Pongracz, *percussion*

Tom Clark-Jones, *organ*

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

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

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 First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland. Thank you.