



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2025  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
CAROLS WITH COMMUNION

**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

arr. David Willcocks

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

## INTROIT

*The Holly and The Ivy*

arr. Reiland Jacques

**The holly and the ivy when they are full grown,  
of all the trees in the wood the holly bears the crown.**

**The rising of the sun the running of the deer,  
the playing of the organ sweet singing in the choir.**

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Glory to God in highest heaven.

And on earth peace for those on whom his favor rests.

**In the tender compassion of our God,**

**the morning sun has risen upon us who lived in darkness.**

The Word has become flesh, has come to dwell among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**Glory as of the only Son from the Father,**

**full of grace and truth.**

To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Alleluia.

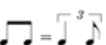
**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

**Alleluia.**

### \* HYMN #136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
verses 1 and 2

GO TELL IT

Refrain 



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Fine*

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

*to Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

**\* CALL TO CONFESSION**

What a rare gift this season brings.  
 Families come together. Little children are heard.  
 We claim our church family as our own link to God's love.  
 God works miracles among us. Let us confess our need.  
 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, we almost missed your light.  
 We confess our neglect of worship,  
 our forgetfulness of your gifts.  
 We have failed to see evidence of your love.  
 We have not heard your cries for justice.  
 We have viewed salvation as strange rhetoric  
 rather than healing transformation.  
 We have mouthed tired platitudes  
 while you call for a new song of true joy and peace.  
 Is there forgiveness for us in this season?  
 Is there hope for new life?  
 (Moment of silent confession)**

\* KYRIE #102

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

There is good news.

The light still shines, and it is for you, for me, for all of us together.

God still works miracles within us and among us.

The hills are singing, the oceans roar, and the rivers clap.

Let all the people shout for joy.

Celebrate God's saving power, God's compassion, God's acceptance of us.

God's forgiveness helps us confront and overcome the evil in our lives.

God offers us peace that has no other source than God's faithfulness.

**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

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

**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!**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

All creation proclaims God's saving power and faithfulness.

Our offerings can also make a powerful witness.

They are expressions of gratitude but also proclamations of commitment.

They celebrate God's covenant with us, demonstrated in the gift of Jesus.

Let us give as we have been blessed.

[OFFERING](#)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      *Before The Marvel Of This Night*

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;  
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
sing love; sing love; sing God is love; sing love; sing God is love!

DOXOLOGY #147

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell, the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.  
In fields where they lay, they were keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We seek to make your name known  
to the ends of the earth, O God of all our beginnings.  
We want the whole world to hear good news of peace.  
Bless and multiply our offerings that they may bear witness to the light.  
Amen.**

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #105      *People, Look East*

BESANÇON

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

# WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray.

**Loving God, by the power 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.**

Tanach

Psalm 93 (Inclusive Bible)  
*read responsively*

YHWH reigns, robed in splendor!

**You are robed, YHWH, and armed with strength.**

The world stands firm and cannot be moved;  
your throne stands firm from ages past;  
from eternity you exist.

**The seas are shouting, YHWH  
the seas raise their voices;  
the seas shout with pounding waves.**

Stronger than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
mightiest of all is YHWH!

**Your reign was made known from of old;  
the holy ones praise you in your Temple,  
YHWH, for days without end.**

HYMN #107

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE REJOICE

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing;  
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-kindness.  
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.**

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light—  
upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!  
God, you have made the nation greater—  
you have brought them abundant joy!  
They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations,  
or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.  
For the yoke that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders,  
the rod of the oppressors—you have shattered it,  
as you did at the defeat of Midian.

For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak that was dragged through blood,  
is now used as fuel for the fire.  
For a child is born to us, an heir is given us,  
upon whose shoulders dominion will rest.  
This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the strength of God,  
Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.  
This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end,  
with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness,  
now and forever.  
The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it!

HYMN #114

*Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and to live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age as we await our blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ. It was Christ who was sacrificed for us, to redeem us from all unrighteousness and to cleanse a people to be Christ’s own, eager to do what is right.

## HYMN #123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

## Gospel

## John 1:1-14 (Inclusive Bible)

In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and the life was humanity’s light—a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn’t the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind.



The Word was coming into the world—was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will—but born of God.

And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory—the favor and position a parent gives an only child—filled with grace, filled with truth.

HYMN #132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

## WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

### \* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us  
that on the first day of the week,  
the day on which our Lord rose from the dead,  
Christ appeared to his disciples in the place where they were gathered  
and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.  
Come, then, to the joyful feast of the Lord.

### \* THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks.**

**It is our joy and our salvation**

**at all times and in all places**

**to give thanks to you,**

**O Lord, holy Father,**

**almighty, everlasting God,**

**through Christ, our Lord.**

Because the light of your glory  
has shone with splendor in our world.  
For you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son,  
to be born for us of Mary  
that we might have power  
to become your children through him:

who existed before the world was called into being,  
but came down to save us  
by being born of a humble virgin,  
lying in a crib, walking on earth;  
who became poor that by his poverty  
we might become rich;  
who was humbled that we might be exalted;  
who gave us peace and joy  
when we were without hope and without God.  
Therefore with the whole company of saints  
in heaven and on earth  
we proclaim and celebrate the birth of our Savior  
and we sing with joy:

\* HYMN #134

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*Please be seated*

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give thanks to Abba God that our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
before he suffered, gave us this memorial of his sacrifice,  
until his coming again.

For on the night of his arrest Rabbi Jesus took bread and,  
after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
"This is my body which is for you; do this as a memorial of me."

In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said,  
"This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.  
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

**His death, O God, we proclaim. His resurrection we declare.  
His coming we await. Glory be to you, O Lord.**

## PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

God of Creation, be present with your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit,  
that we may be nourished and strengthened through this supper.  
Grant that all who share the communion  
of the body and blood of your Son may be united in him.

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,  
may we remain faithful in love and hope  
until we feast joyfully with him in his eternal kingdom.

Now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we 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.**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread which we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body  
for we all share in the same loaf.**

The cup for which we give thanks  
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**The cup which we drink  
is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

"Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me,  
and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight  
in the richest of fare." (Isaiah 55:1–2)

**We praise you, Lord,  
for these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.  
We offer you ourselves  
as your people in your service.**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**We will receive the bread of heaven.  
We will drink the cup of salvation.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.


COMMUNION ANTHEM

*Sure On This Shining Night*

Morten Lauridsen

### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

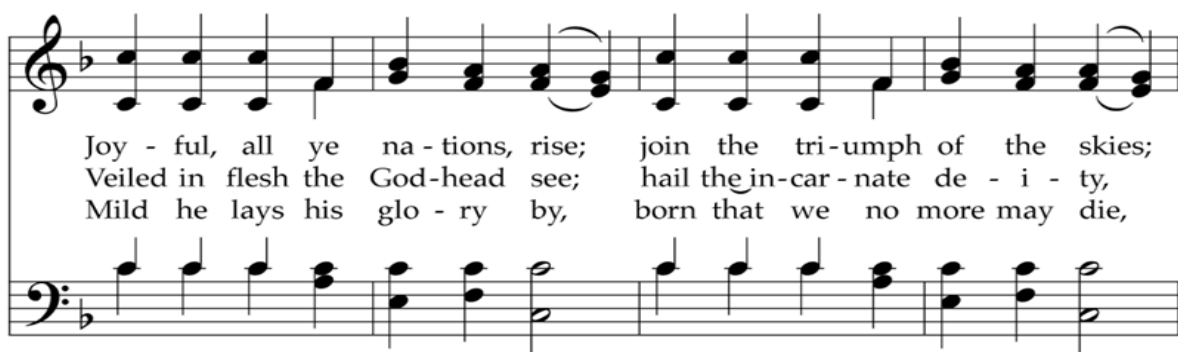
Congregation in Christ,  
since the Lord has fed us at his table,  
let us praise his holy name with thanksgiving.



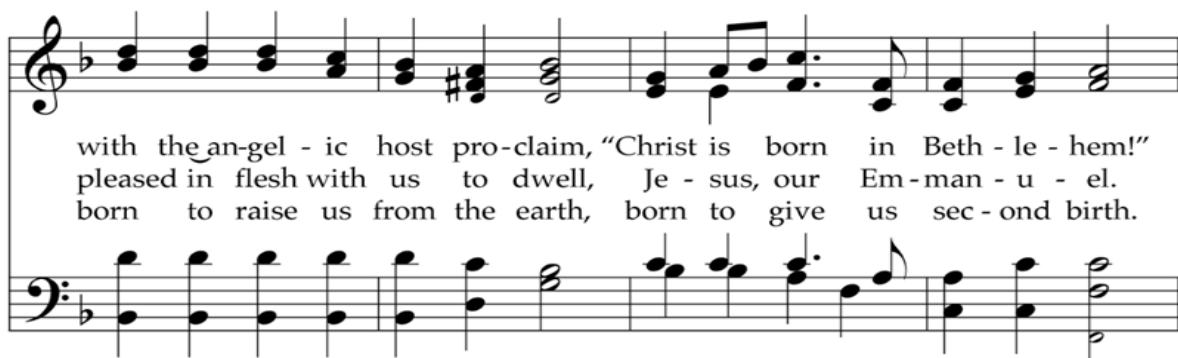
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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!"

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Whatever burdens you carried to this worship,  
leave them behind, to face the world anew.

**Timeless truth has broken into our earthly days,  
so many of our worries can be discarded.**

Whatever sadness envelops you in this season  
is being transcended and turned to good ends.

**We have known the comfort of God's presence  
and the healing touch of God's grace.**

Whatever doubts have held you captive  
and cut off from your encounter with the Eternal,  
surrender to the One who is ever the same,  
yet makes all things new.

**All the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.**

Carry forth into the world and into coming days  
the joy and peace of Christmas.

**We seek to be light-bearers  
amid all the shadows along life's pathways.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

Peter Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Herr Christ, der einge Gottes Sohn* BWV 601

Johann Sebastian Bach



### Pastor's Welcome

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you here to  
The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland—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—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/](http://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

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.

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



## **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:** Evan M. Collins

### **The Old Stone Singers**

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *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

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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