



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

DECEMBER 28, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

WELCOME

Kate McFadden, MDiv.

INTROIT

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

German Carol

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung
It came, a floweret bright amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christmas season continues,
and the spirit of Christmas reigns among us.

**We want to prolong the friendly greetings
and carols of good cheer.**

The steadfast love of God
abides with all who are receptive to it.

**We want to stay in familiar places,
enjoying God's mercy and redemption.**

The same God who meets us here
sends us to far places for our safety and growth.

**We will not turn away from any possibilities
God has in store for us.**

The One by whom and for whom all things exist
welcomes us as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

**In the name of one who shared our humanity,
we bring our worship and praise.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who welcomes us as sisters and brothers.
We come in trust,
knowing that you will help us to face life's temptations
and overcome them,
believing that you will see us through times of suffering and affliction,
confident that you will never break covenant with us.
Thank you for your faithfulness, kindness, and mercy
to us as we seek to respond in obedience and loving service.
Amen.**

* HYMN #140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

IRBY
 8.7.8.7.7.7

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Steve Willett

Amid the oppression and violence
 all too evident in the world around us,
 we are called to rid ourselves of resentment
 and hatred and misuse of power.
 Aware of vast inequalities of opportunity and resources,
 we are summoned to examine our roles
 in creating or eliminating injustice.
 Let us confess our sin.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for personal silent confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Just and righteous God,
we tremble before Your all-knowing awareness of us.
You have blessed us with abundance we have not counted
and riches we have not fully appreciated.
Our gratitude is found wanting before Your judgement.
Our attention to the needs of the poor and oppressed
is less than You desire.
Forgive us, God, for misplaced anger
and callous disregard of ways we trample others.
We seek redemption from oppression and violence
to embrace new life in Christ.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

SINGAPURA

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

***Congregation:* Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God in Christ delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
God forgives us when we are truly penitent
and know we have nowhere to turn but to the grace that Love provides.
We are the church to which God entrusts a rich variety of wisdom.
Let us together accept the gifts of God and make them known.

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 #583

TAIZÉ

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.

The riches of our land far surpass the resources of the visitors from the east
who came to worship the infant Jesus.

As they opened their treasure chests, may we open our wallets
and our lives in expressions of thanksgiving and commitment.

This offering is an expression of our priorities.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Coventry Carol

Martin Shaw

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child by-by, lully, lullay
Lullay, thou little tiny child by-by, lully, lullay
Oh, sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day
Oh, this poor youngling for whom we sing by-by, lully, lullay

Herod the King, in his raging charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight all children young to slay
Then woe is me, poor child, for thee and ever morn and day
For thy parting, nor say nor sing by-by, lully, lullay

* DOXOLOGY #136

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

Steve Willett

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**What shall we give to the One
who destroys the power of death and sin?
How can we give thanks for the Supportive Presence
who lifts us up and carries us when all else fails?
We present these offerings as our response,
rejoicing in your covenant with us.
Thank you for accepting and affirming whatever we have to give.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Grant Us Lord

STUTTGART

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

**Holy One, your Word comes to us:
Jesus Christ, Immanuel.
Holy Word,
you cross every border meant to shut you out.
Holy Wisdom,
speak to us in the word read and proclaimed.
Hearing, may we dream your dreams
and faithfully follow wherever you lead.
In your triune name we pray.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 63:7-9 (Inclusive Bible)

I will tell you of YHWH's unfailing love, and sing the praises of YHWH for all that YHWH did for us—the many good things done for the house of Israel, which God did with motherly compassion and many kindnesses. For YHWH said, "Truly these are my people, children who will not be false to me"—and so God became their Liberator. In all their distress, O God, you were distressed, and the angel of your Presence saved them; you redeemed them out of deep love and profound mercy; you lifted them up and carried them from time immemorial.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23 (Inclusive Bible)

After the astrologers left, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what God had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my Own."

Herod became furious when he realized that the astrologers had outwitted him. He gave orders to kill all male children that were two years old and younger living in and around Bethlehem. The age of the children was based on the date Herod had learned from the astrologers. Then what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice was heard in Ramah sobbing and lamenting loudly; it was Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, for they were no more.”

After Herod’s death, the angel of God appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead.” Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they returned to the land of Israel. Joseph heard, however, that Archelaus had succeeded Herod as ruler of Judea, and Joseph was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received by Joseph in a dream, the family went to the region of Galilee. There they settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way, what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Kate McFadden, MDiv.



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 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God, who brings you to the glory of a living faith,
empowers you now to live with integrity.

**We put our trust in God,
fearing no one and no circumstance.**

Jesus Christ, who shared our human nature,
delivers us from all bondage.

**We are free to love and serve
without deception or selfish concern.**

Temptation holds no power over us
and suffering presents no threat.

**We are united in the love of Christ,
whose brothers and sisters we are.**

God's mercy and peace go with you,
transforming every day with joy.

**We have been prepared by love
to give our best wherever we go.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Variations on Noël Nouvelet

Michael Burkhardt

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalms 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Regina George, Katherine McIntosh, Thelma Omsby, Kendalle Cobb,
John Davis, Bart Alcorn, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Lynne Crawford, Debbie Carrick, Sandy Colombo, Scheem Hempstead,
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

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.

@ First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday December 28 Christmas I

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

1:00PM Browns/Steelers/Huntington Bank Field

Tuesday December 30

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday December 31

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM New Years Eve Service/Chapel

Thursday January 1 New Years Holiday

Building and Offices Closed

Friday January 2 New Years Holiday

Building and Offices Closed

Sunday January 4 Epiphany

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

Tuesday January 6

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday January 7

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday January 8

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/Zoom

Sunday January 11 Baptism of the Lord

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:15AM MUW Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Tuesday January 13

12:15PM Old Stone Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday January 14

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday January 15

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference

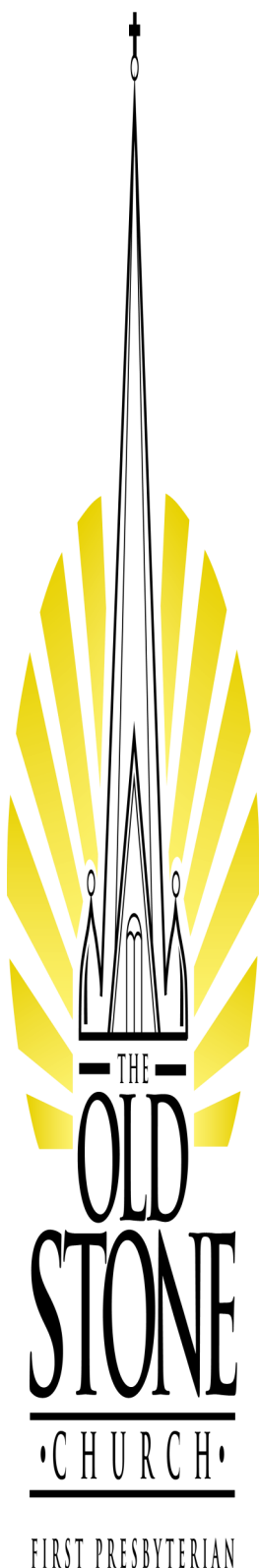
Sunday January 18 Epiphany II

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Monday January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Building and Offices Closed



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

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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*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *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

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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