

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 4, 2026
EPIPHANY WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow African American Spiritual

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Lovely star in the sky banishing the night,
Shine down and hallow us, light up our path.
Star shining in the East, be our true guide;
Lead us to Bethlehem, where the child lies.

What can we do to show our devotion true?
Shall we present to him sweet smelling gifts;
Far mountain's frankincense, sandalwood myrrh?
Shall it be precious gold, pearls from the sea?

None of these things of price would give Jesus joy;
How then we will express thanks for his birth?
One present, one alone, Christ would desire:
Love from our deepest heart, our own best love.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**We, who live in a shadowed world,
have seen God's revelation in Jesus.**

Lift up your eyes and see:

God's light dwells in you and others see it.

**Our hearts rejoice at the opportunity
to witness to what we have heard and observed.**

Gather, then, as apostles and prophets,
stewards of the mystery of Christ.

**We have seen a star
and have come to worship.**

May your awareness, responsiveness,
and reverence be strengthened in our time together.

**We will search diligently and listen carefully
for all that God would reveal to us.**

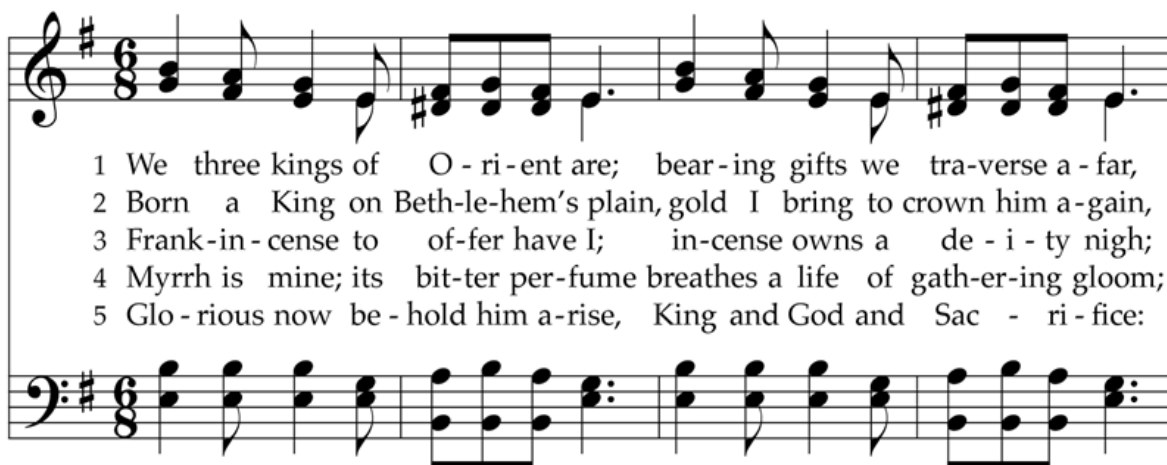
* INVOCATION PRAYER

**We gather as ministers of your good news
to explore the unsearchable riches of Christ.**

**We take seriously the mandate you have given us,
to be partakers of the gospel promises
and members of the body of Christ.**

**Encounter us here with a message so compelling
that we will be encouraged to confront
those principalities and powers that would thwart your reign among us.
Grant us boldness and confidence to follow where Christ would lead us.
Amen.**

(verses 1, 2, and 5)



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!

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Daniel May

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 join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for personal silent confession.
Thus, we pray together:

* 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 ELEISON

Savior of the Nations, Come

**Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make Thy home!
Marvel now, O Heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.**

* 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 #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

**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.

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

Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Is Come

Healey Willan

Arise, shine, for thy light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,

Alleluia!

Oh, praise the Lord; all ye nations, and laud Him, all ye people!

For his merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Alleluia!

* DOXOLOGY

**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

Daniel May

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**As the magi presented costly gifts to the Child
they dared to worship as your special messenger,
we would give our best through the church,
which continues as Christ's body and the carrier of good news.
Keep us open to the signs of your presence
and responsive to your summons, no matter where it leads.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem Ralph Vaughan Williams

O Sing A Song Of Bethlehem, Of Shepherds Watching There,
And Of The News That Came To Them From Angels In The Air:
The Light That Shone On Bethlehem Fills All The World Today;
Of Jesus' Birth And Peace On Earth The Angels Sing Always.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together:

**O God, we would be servants of your gospel.
By your grace, through the power of your Holy Spirit,
reveal to us your wisdom in its rich variety.
Speak to us in your Word read and proclaimed,
that hearing we may in turn share with others
the boundless riches of Christ, that everyone might come to see
your plan for all creation.
In Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. 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, 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 Boundless Love"

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #157

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE



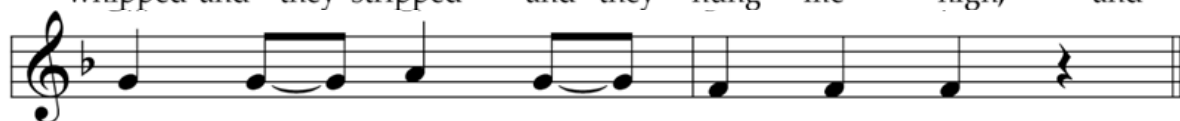
1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
came with me and the dance went on.
left me there on a cross to die.



Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the



Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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 right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Abba God, creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness
and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.
And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* HYMN #552

Holy, Holy, Holy

LAND OF REST

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
 2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
 in whom you have revealed yourself,
 our light and our salvation.
 You sent a star to guide Magi
 to where the Christ was born;
 and in your signs and witnesses,
 in every age and through all the world,
 you have led your people from far places to his light.
 By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
 you gave birth to your Church,
 delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
 and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
 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.
 Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which Rabbi Jesus gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
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...

Regina George, Katherine McIntosh, Thelma Omsby, Kendalle Cobb,
John Davis, Bart Alcorn, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Jack Moreland, Lynne Crawford, 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

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



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

Brightest and Best

Shawn Kirchner

* 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 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,

to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:

ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face

myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth into the world, emboldened and equipped
to witness to all you have seen and heard.

**Our hearts and minds thrill at the challenges
of discipleship and apostleship.**

May the radiance of your faith
inspire others to seek the Christ.

**It is an awesome thing to be entrusted
with responsibility to share the good news.**

To the least of all the saints
God's grace and power is given!

**We pray for the insight and humility
to live up to that trust.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Winchester New

Christopher Tambling

*“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:

Regina George, Katherine McIntosh, Thelma Omsby, Kendalle Cobb,
John Davis, Bart Alcorn, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,
Jack Moreland, Lynne Crawford, 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

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.

Epiphany House Blessing Bags

Please pick up your
Epiphany House Blessing Bags
located at the Public Square doors
and outside the Chapel



@ First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday January 4/Epiphany

10:00AM Worship with Communion

Tuesday January 6

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

Wednesday January 7

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome & Fellowship Meeting/ZOOM

Thursday January 8

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday January 11 Baptism of the Lord

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

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

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday January 13

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

Wednesday January 14

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday January 15

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

Sunday January 18

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

4:00PM Celebrity Chef/Cory Sprouse/Memorial Hall

Monday January 19/Martin Luther King Day

All Day/Building and Offices Closed



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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
1380 Ontario Street
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 OLD STONE CHURCH

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

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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: Evan M. Collins

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

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 Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.