



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 11, 2026
BAPTISM OF THE LORD
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Rain Down</i>	Jamie Cortez
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Cheryl Lydston, Front Steps Housing and Services
INTROIT	<i>We Walk in Love</i>	Deanna Witkowski
	We walk in love united in purpose. We join our hands and lift up one voice. We speak the truth with strength and compassion resounding with hope, with courage and joy.	

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The One who granted us the breath of life
is present here to greet us.

**Praise God for the gift of life
and the linking of our lives with one another.**

God's own Spirit rests upon us,
drawing us into the family of faith.

**We have been baptized into Christ
and share in the mission entrusted to Jesus.**

The good news of peace is for all people,
for God shows no partiality.

**All who fear God and do what is right
are acceptable to the God of the universe.**

Come together, then, to remember Jesus' baptism
and ponder its implications for us.

**Open up your heavens to us, O God,
that your reality may be inescapably apparent.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Great God, above all gods,
we who fail so often and are so easily
discouraged return for spiritual refreshment and practical directions.
Take us by the hand and renew in us once more your holy covenant.
Open the eyes that have been unable to see your truth.
Release those of us who live in prisons of our own making
and those bound by the sins of others.
Grant us the help that we need to live freely in response to your Spirit.
Amen.**

* HYMN #688

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

 stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scand - ed Dove,

 and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

TEXT: George Croly, 1867
MUSIC: Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE
10.10.10.10

* CALL TO CONFESSON

Mary Musson

As we remember today the baptism of Jesus,
we rejoice that we, too, have been baptized into the family of faith.
Our lives have been committed to the way of Jesus.
Yet, we have wandered from that way of life.
Confession allows us to turn around
and rediscover the paths God intends for us.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for personal silent confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of glory, we confess that our lives have not glorified You.
God of justice, we admit our complicity with systems of injustice.
God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create
that keep others from seeing You.
All-inclusive God, we repent of our narrow vision
and our tendency to exclude.
Purge us of the idols that keep us from full commitment
to the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE #577

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The prophets testify that all who believe in God's messenger receive forgiveness of sin through His name.

We believe that Jesus is that beloved messenger, with whom God is well pleased.

Through this One on whom God's spirit was poured out, like a descending dove, we know ourselves to be beloved by God, forgiven and freed from the bonds of sin.

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 #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me.*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

How can we share the message that God is impartial, that justice and peace are God's intention for all humankind?

We combine our individual efforts through the church, joining in programs, projects, and outreach that reflect God's light into the world. Our gifts of gratitude are one way of sharing.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Believe This Is Jesus

Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus;
Come and see, oh, come and see.
The light of God shines in his face,
He offers all his pard'ning grace;
Come and see, oh, come and see.
Yes, yes, yes Lord!
Oh, I believe this is Jesus;
Come and see, come and see.

* DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mary Musson

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Your abundant outpouring to us, O God,
has included many things we have come to enjoy and take for granted.
Some of these things have become for us graven images
that occupy our time and attention.
In this offering we are recalled to matters of first importance,
and we give ourselves and our substance to them.
May all that we dedicate here, including life itself,
accomplish much good and bring healing to our troubled world.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Great Are You, Lord

Michael and Deborah Smith

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.

Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:

Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Still-speaking God,
as these words from Scripture are read,
may it be to us as if the heavens are opening,
and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove,
revealing your love for us as your daughters and sons.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 42:1-9 (Inclusive Bible)

“Here is my Servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one, in whom I delight!
I have endowed you with my Spirit
that you may bring true justice to the nations.
You do not cry out or raise your voice,
or make yourself heard in the street.
So gentle that you do not break a bruised reed,
or quench a wavering flame,
faithfully you will bring forth true justice.
You will neither waver nor be crushed
until justice is established on earth,
for the islands await your teaching!
Thus says YHWH,
who created the heavens and spread them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what it produces,
who gave life to its peoples and spirit to its inhabitants:
I, YHWH, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand, and I watch over you.
I have appointed you to be a covenant people,
a light to the nations:
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.
I am YHWH! This is my Name!
I will not yield my glory to another god
or my praise to idols!
See how former predictions have come true.
And now I declare new things!
Before they spring forth, I tell them to you.”

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.
With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17 (Inclusive Bible)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan river to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, “I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!” But Jesus replied, “Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God’s justice.” So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Loved thru Our Baptism”



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 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Each stanza of this compact and carefully constructed text about baptism begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune first transcribed in the 19th century.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The One who granted us the breath of life
has baptized us with water and the Spirit.

**We are supported and strengthened by God's love
and by the family of faith of which we are a part.**

Carry forward the mission that Christ entrusts to us:
proclaim peace to all people everywhere.

**Our differences are transcended
in the healing streams of God's impartiality.**

In humility, and yet with confidence,
we go out to witness to our faith.

**The truth of God has been real to us here,
and we carry with us the power of this encounter.**

The God of righteousness and justice sends us forth
to win freedom for the oppressed of the earth.

**As Jesus went about healing and doing good,
we go out to extend God's covenant to all.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Wash O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Text: Ruth Duck
arr. Evan Collins

*“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:

Polly and Freddy, 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,
Kristy and Ted, Marlon Naylor, Courtney Knapp, Mark Corey, Bruce Baunach,
JoAnn Hood, Judy and Frank Macuga, the Shell family, the Speidel and Sawicki family

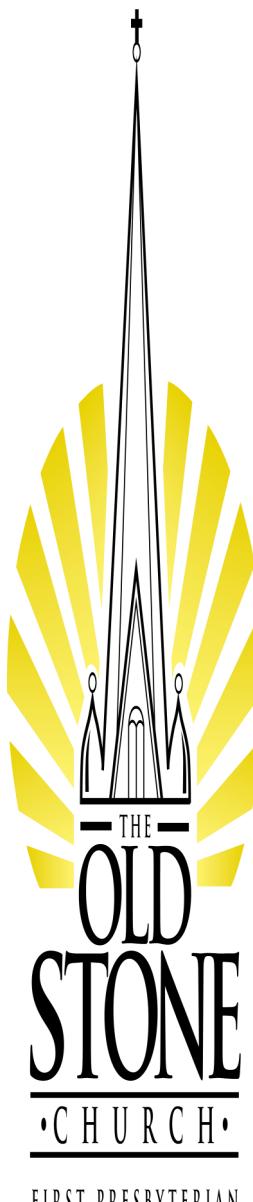
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

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



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 11

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

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

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

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Community Pop Up Choir Rehearsal/Chapel

Monday January 19/Martin Luther King Day

All Day/Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday January 20

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

Wednesday January 21

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday January 25

10:00AM Worship/Community Pop Up Choir/Sanctuary

11:15AM Annual Meeting/Sanctuary

Monday January 26

6:30PM Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

Tuesday January 27

6:30PM Stated Session Meeting/ZOOM

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

Wednesday January 28

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:75 Online:197

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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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*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

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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