



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 18, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Spirit of Life* Carolyn McDade

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *He Came Down* Cameroon Song

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah for evermore.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and Mother,
and from the Sovereign Jesus Christ.

**We hear God naming our names
and calling us to join the company of the saints.**

We are God's chosen ones, valued in our uniqueness
and commissioned for service to all.

**How can we be saints when our labor seems fruitless,
or servants when our strength is spent for nothing?**

God does not measure our success
but rather our faithfulness.

**We will turn to God for the strength we need,
for greater knowledge and more eloquent speech.**

You are not lacking in any spiritual gift;
God is faithful and will provide for you.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**How awesome it is, O Holy One,
to sense that you have chosen us for great responsibilities.
You give us as a light to the nations,
so your salvation may reach the ends of the earth.
Grant that we may reflect, and not block,
the illuminating grace you intend for all whose lives we touch
and the multitudes we will never know.
We need this hour of worship to strengthen our resolve
and equip us to represent you well. Amen.**

* HYMN #408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Kristy Sawicki

The church of which we are a part has a long record of faithful worship and service.

Yet, it is easy to settle into routines and rituals that lose the urgency of the gospel.

We become complacent, and our focus narrows to our own immediate concerns.

Let us return to God for cleansing from 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

**We come back to You, O Holy One, to renew our commitment.
We confess that pride has led us to embrace false gods.
We spend more time with our hobbies than with Your cause.
We pay more attention to our toys than to Your truth.
Your law is no longer foremost in our hearts.
We have neglected the spiritual gifts entrusted to us.
We have forgotten that we have been named and baptized
and commissioned for service.
O God, bring us back to Yourself.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON #577

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the glad news of deliverance.
God's saving help is available to us.
God's mercy is sure.
We can leave our idols and reorder our priorities.
We are empowered by God's steadfast love and faithfulness
to become all we are meant to be.
Sing a new song of praise to our God!
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.
Remembering all we have spent for nothing and vanity,
we now consider how to bring offerings worthy of God's saving grace.
Nothing can compare to God's wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us.
We can only respond with trust and joy and generosity.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Spirit Sang All Day

Gerald Finzi

My spirit sang all day, O my joy. Nothing my tongue could say, Only my joy!
My heart an echo caught O my joy,
And spake, Tell me thy thought, Hide not thy joy.
My eyes can peer around, O my joy, What beauty hast thou found?
Shew us thy joy.
My jealous ears grew whist; O my joy.
Music from heaven is't Sent for our joy?
She also came and heard; O my joy,
What, said she, is this word? What is thy joy?
And I replied, O see, O my joy,
'Tis thee, I cried, 'tis thee: Thou art my joy.

* 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

Kristy Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Before your altar we offer to you, O God, what we have to give.
Some of us have few financial resources,
but we return a portion to accomplish your work through this church.
Few among us are biblical scholars, but we come together to learn.
Eloquent testimony to our faith is beyond the reach of many of us,
but we recognize that often a simple honest word to others
is sufficient to draw them nearer to your healing power.
You have promised that we shall not be lacking in any spiritual gift.
These we bring for your blessing.
May our offerings equip us to serve wherever you call.
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

**Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove:
open our ears to the truth of your word,
that the testimony of Christ may be strengthened among us
and the glad news of deliverance revealed.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 49:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

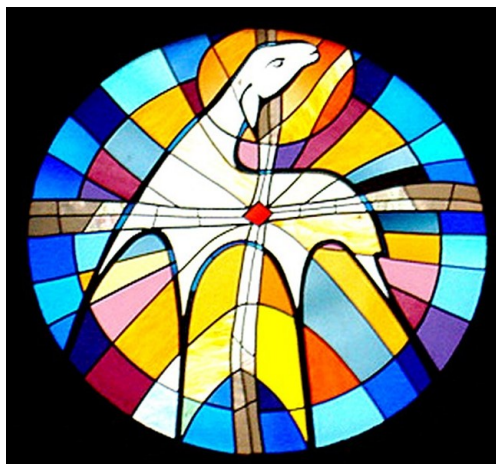
Islands, listen to me! Pay attention, distant peoples! YHWH called me before I was born, and named me from my mother's womb. God made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of the hand of the Most High. The Almighty made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God's quiver. The Holy One said to me, "You are my Servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." I had been thinking, "I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing!"—yet all the while my cause was with YHWH, and my reward was with my God.

Thus says YHWH, who formed me in the womb to be God's Servant, who destined me to bring back the children of Jacob and gather again the people of Israel: "It is not enough for you to do my bidding, to restore the tribes of Leah, Rachel and Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel: I will make you the light of the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Thus says YHWH, the Redeemer of Israel, the Holy One, to the one deeply despised, the one abhorred by nations, the one enslaved by despots: "Rulers will stand when you walk in the room and court officials will pay homage because of YHWH, who is faithful, because of the Holy One of Israel, who chose you."

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

With God's help we are listening.



The next day, catching sight of Jesus approaching, John exclaimed, “Look, there’s God’s sacrificial lamb, who takes away the world’s sin! This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’ I didn’t recognize him, but it was so that he would be revealed to Israel that I came baptizing with water.”

John also gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and she came to rest on him. I didn’t recognize him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘When you see the Spirit descend and rest on someone, that is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ Now I have seen for myself and have testified that this is the Only Begotten of God.”

The next day, John was by the Jordan again with two of his disciples.

Seeing Jesus walk by, John said, “Look! There’s the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard what John said and followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned around and noticed them following, he asked them, “What are you looking for?” They replied, “Rabbi,”—which means “Teacher”—“where are you staying?” “Come and see,” Jesus answered.

So they went to see where he was staying, and they spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

One of the two who had followed Jesus after hearing John was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. The first thing Andrew did was to find Simon Peter and say, “We’ve found the Messiah!”—which means “the Anointed One.”

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, who looked hard at him and said, “You are Simon ben-Jonah; I will call you ‘Rock’”—that is “Peter.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“What are You Looking For?”

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 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Continue to next page

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베풀 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

You have been equipped for your life of service
far beyond your testing of that equipment.

**We are amazed that God chooses us
and assures us of the strength we need for each task.**

God's promises are not empty rhetoric;
God is a constant presence and faithful support.

**When we are discouraged we will not give up
but will return to the source of all life.**

When we fail God, others, and our own best selves,
God's love continues to uphold and strengthen us.

**God sustains us when times are most difficult
and renews us through our faith community.**

Reenter your everyday world with confidence.

The heavens have opened to bless you.

**Grace to us and peace from God, our Mother and Father,
and from the Sovereign Jesus Christ.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the *Jeux d'Anches*

Francois Couperin

*“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:

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,
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.

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*

Cicely Schonberg, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

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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