



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

JANUARY 25, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
**10AM Sanctuary Worship**

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Deep in Our Hearts*

Ron Klusmeier

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

*Why Should I Feel Discouraged*

Charles Gabriel

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—I sing because I'm free—  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come together, people of God,  
out of the gloom and shadow of a troubled world.

**We come with joy to the great light  
that God has given us in Jesus Christ.**

Come away, people of God,  
from the jealous rivalries that mar your days.

**We come in sorrowful repentance  
to confront and overcome all that divides us.**

Come to worship, people of God,  
leaving behind all else that compels your attention.

**We come to refocus our priorities  
and to become more alert to God's action among us.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Sovereign God,  
whose activity in our everyday world  
we have failed to discern,  
confront us here with realities we have missed.**

**May we find new joy in all the ways you have blessed us.**

**May we seek compelling challenges  
in the opportunities you set before us.**

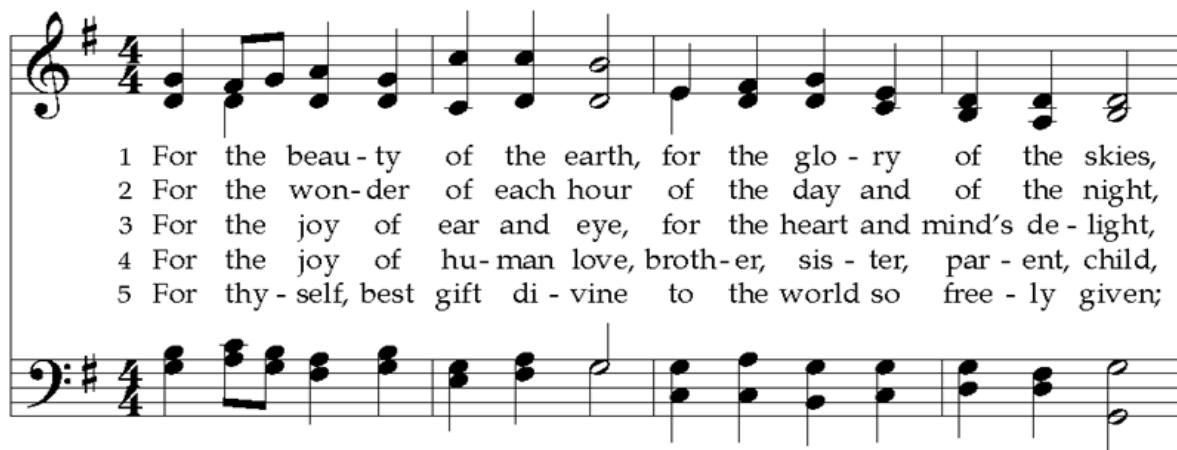
**Break down the barriers we have created among ourselves,  
and against you, so others may be drawn to your lifesaving love.**

**Amen.**

\* HYMN #14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
(verses 1,2 and 5)

DIX



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

## \* CALL TO CONFESION

Ted Sawicki

Jesus came to Galilee with the message of John the Baptist:  
 Repent, for God's realm has come near.  
 His invitation went out to common everyday folk: Follow me.  
 We too, are called to repent and to follow.  
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
 followed by time for personal silent confession.  
 Thus, we pray:

## \* PRAYER OF CONFESION

**Turn our lives around, God.  
 Help us to identify in ourselves  
 those parts of us that need to change  
 if we are to experience your joy.  
 Too long we have been hiding in the shadows,  
 reluctant to express our faith.  
 Too long we have shunned the light,  
 afraid of what might be exposed.  
 Too long we have avoided people with whom we have a quarrel,  
 refusing to build bridges across our differences.  
 Save us from ourselves that we may enjoy your realm.**

*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE #577

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Light has come.

Salvation is poured out on those who accept it.

God is gracious and reaches out to welcome us.

We are free to accept the invitation to follow Jesus.

There is good news of forgiveness and healing to be shared.

Let's do it.

**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.

What can we do to send the message of the cross  
to those who think it is foolishness?

How will the gospel be proclaimed to people who are perishing,  
both within and far beyond this church?

One way is through the sharing of resources God has given us—  
our time, talent, and treasure.

Let us give with joy.

The offering will now be received.

**OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*How Can I Keep from Singing*

Robert Lowry

My life flows on in endless song; Above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging;  
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—How can I keep from singing?  
What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth;  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am His—How can I keep from singing?

## \* 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

Ted Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**With the daring of the early disciples,  
we present our offerings in direct  
response to Christ's appeal to leave all and follow.  
We are withholding much of what we possess,  
for we do not yet know how to live without it.  
But we would not withhold ourselves, our devotion, our time,  
our talents, our commitment to faithful service.  
Use us, as you use these material offerings,  
to bring the gospel of your realm  
to all people everywhere.  
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

**God, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed  
our eyes may see your Kindom,  
our ears may hear the call of Jesus,  
and our hearts may know the joy of salvation.  
Amen.**

### THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 9:1-4 (Inclusive Bible)

“But there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish! In the past God humbled the land of Zebulun, the land of Naphtali, but in the future God will bring glory to this Road to the Sea, this Land beyond the Jordan, this Galilee of the Nations.

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 their oppressors—you have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian.”

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

**With God's help we are listening.**

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23 (Inclusive Bible)

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, the way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message, "Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers—Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew—casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind." They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus. Jesus was walking along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers—James and John, ben-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"To Hear the Call of Jesus"



## 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 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his  
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his  
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our  
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -  
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as  
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly  
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double “Alleluia!” before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune’s highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God has broken through the bonds  
that keep us from realizing our own best selves.

**We depart with joy in our hearts  
and the intent to live by the best we know.**

God breaks the rod of all oppressors  
so they and all whom they hurt may find new life.

**We are set free from bondage  
to accept the challenge of responsible freedom.**

God forges the differences we express  
into new and stronger unities.

**We put away quarreling and strife,  
determined to listen more and speak less.**

God summons us to follow Christ  
and invites all men and women to discipleship.

**We assign all else to second place  
to live by God's law of love for all.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Three Fold Amen*

Giovanni Palestrina

POSTLUDE

*Allemande from Suite VII in D minor*

Dietrich Buxtehude

*“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, Patricia Gerand, John Davis, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton, Carlos Fayne, 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, Earl Rolen and family, the Madinger family, the Shell family

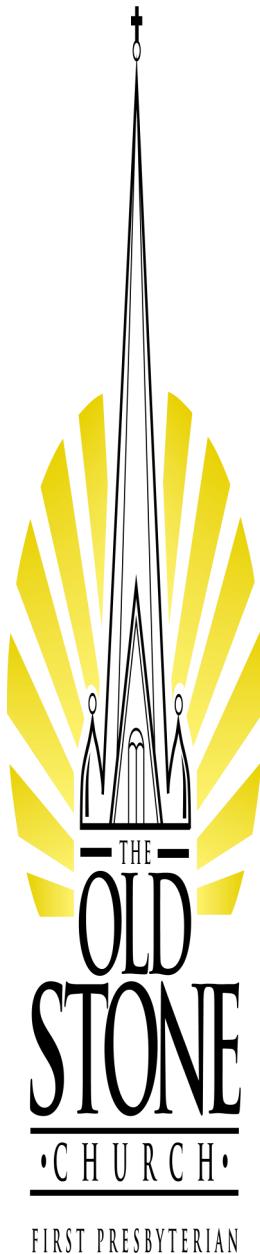
We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

*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.



## **@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland**

### **Sunday January 25**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Annual Meeting/Sanctuary

### **Monday January 26**

**6:30PM** Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

### **Tuesday January 27**

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

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

### **Wednesday January 28**

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

### **Sunday February 1**

**10:00AM** Worship with Communion

**11:30AM** Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

### **Tuesday February 3**

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

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

### **Wednesday February 4**

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

### **Sunday February 8**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

### **Tuesday February 10**

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

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

### **Wednesday February 11**

**12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

### **Sunday February 15**

**10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary

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

**11:30AM** Communion/Chapel

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  
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*

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  
onelicense#A-742406

**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*

Stephen Brown, *tenor*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

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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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.