



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
 Stone Presbyterian Church
 A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
 December 5, 2021 ~ The 2nd Sunday of Advent



We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming

PRELUDE "Winchester New" Christopher Tambling
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them!

PEOPLE: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David.

LEADER: And he will be called the prophet of the Most High.

PEOPLE: And will give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

LEADER: And give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

PEOPLE: And guide the feet of his people into the way of peace.

LEADER: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

ALL: Let us worship God.

+ **HYMN** "Prepare the Way, O Zion" to ST. LOUIS
 (see insert)
(+Those who are able may stand.)

THE 2ND ADVENT CANDLE – GIFT OF PEACE
 Sherry Robinson and Phil Conley



UNISON PRAYER:

God of peace, as we continue our pilgrimage together, deepen our relationship with you, with one another, and with all of your creation. Purify our hearts, that we might make ready a pathway for your coming. Shine into the dark places in our lives, that we might be freed to focus on the One who comes to love us and bring us peace. Amen!

+**THE ADVENT GIVING** –  **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**
 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in silent reflection, then together)

O Lord our God, we hear the voice of John the Baptist, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord," and we are hopeful about Jesus' coming soon! We also hear his words commanding us to repent and be refined by the fire, and we are suddenly fearful of Jesus' coming too soon, before we are ready. Take away what keeps us from the truth about ourselves: Show us where we sin in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, or left undone. Reveal to us our self-congratulations on the spiritual progress we feel we have made, or will make. Lead us not into feelings of guilt, but open our eyes to how desperate is our need for you. Lord Jesus, save us from ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+**A DOXOLOGY** (to the tune GLORIA)

To the God of hope we sing, To the Son let praises ring,
 And the Holy Spirit praise, As this song of hope we raise:
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

+**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

We Listen for the Word of God

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

(You are invited to say the concluding "amen" aloud.)

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Malachi 3:1-4 *The messenger of the covenant will be like a refining fire.*
 The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

Philippians 1:3-11 *Paul's gratitude for the faithfulness of the Philippians.*
 The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God



SOLO

“Come unto Him” from *Messiah*
Sung by Lauralyn Kolb

G. F. Handel

Luke 3:1-6 The proclamation of John the Baptist
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

SERMON

“All of us are Dumb Different”

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+ HYMN #10 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” WINCHESTER NEW

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on the Prologue to the Gospel of John)

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made. What was made in him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not been able to overcome it.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH AND JOYS & CONCERNS

OFFERTORY “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” F. W. Zachau

+A DOXOLOGY ADESTE FIDELES

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O Come, let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (see insert)

We Go Out in Peace

+ HYMN “O Lord, How Shall We Meet You?” GOD REST YE MERRY
(see insert)

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+ POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP

December 5, 2021 ~ Second Sunday of Advent ~ 10:30 a.m.



The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.

All the People, Ministers

**Stone Presbyterian Church
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315-853-2933
stonepres@stonepres.org**

**Scott Leonard, Commissioned Pastor
G. Roberts Kolb, Director of Music
Gerald G. Platz, Pastor Emeritus
Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator
Lee Kelso, Sexton**

**www.stonepres.org ~ www.facebook.com/stonepres
www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

+GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. /

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

... who forever sing to the glory of your name.

(Singing) CRANHAM ("In the Bleak Midwinter")

**Holy, holy, holy God of pow'r and might
Heav'n and earth your glory show forth day and night.
We sing loud "Hosannas," the praise that he is due,
As he brings salvation, our hope to renew.**

...And so we announce to the world the good news of our faith as we sing together:

(Singing)

**Crucified with robbers on a cross to die;
In the tomb for three days, lifeless he did lie.
By God's loving power raised new life to gain.
We await with hope his coming once again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional Version, *Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 16)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION, COMMUNION & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and individual cups, then return to your seat by the side aisles where we will partake together.)

+HYMN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

(TUNE: ST. LOUIS, "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847) ~ Adapted by Dennis Dewey (2001)

1. Prepare the way, O Zi - on, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let ev'ry hill and val - ley A level way appear.
Greet him who comes in glory, foretold on sacred page.
O blessèd is the one who comes to save this needy age!
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and free - dom, with justice, truth and love.
All lands will bow before him, their adoration bring.
O blessèd is the one who comes, our Savior and our King!
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on, Your savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salva - tion Announce in ev'ry place.
Let every tongue and people, his praises now proclaim.
O blessèd is the one who comes in God's most holy name!

+ HYMN

O Lord, How Shall We Meet You?

GOD REST YE MERRY

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863 ~ Alt., Dennis Dewey 2007

1. O Lord, how shall we meet_ you to welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet_ you, our hope and hearts' delight.
O kindle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp within our breast,
To_ do that which pleas - es you best, pleases you best,
To_ do_ that which pleas - es you best.
2. Love caused your incarna - tion, love gave you human birth.
Your thirst for peace and whole - ness salvation brought to earth.
Your love beyond all tell - ing for all the human race
Brings you near to_ save_ and embrace, save and embrace,
Brings you near_ to_ save_ and embrace.
3. Abundant life you of - fer, a life that will not die.
You will not fail or leave_ us as earthly treasures fly.
Our hearts with joy now overflow our spirits to renew
To_ give you the praise that you are due, praise you are due,
To_ give_ you the praise that you are due!

Today, the second Sunday in Advent, is PEACE SUNDAY. Our offering of Peace will be directed to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program in urgent response to the overwhelming culture of violence in our world. Our offering will be used to transform cultures of violence into communities of peace, in part by funding the Presbyterian Peace camp for children. Additionally, your generosity will help the Presbyterian Church USA to develop new approaches to equip God's people to be compassionate and prophetic peacemakers and to assist communities of peace to learn from each other and to take action together for the transformation of the world. As is our custom, this Advent offering will be separate from our regular giving. Please help support these obviously necessary peacemaking efforts.

Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols is Sunday, December 5th at 4:00 p.m. in the Hamilton College Chapel. Hamilton College welcomes the campus community and the public to join in the celebration of the Advent season, anticipating the joy of Christmas, reading together the biblical narratives and singing familiar songs with music provided by Tapestry and being conducted by G. Roberts Kolb. Officiating over the service will be the Rev. Jeffrey H. McArn, college chaplain, with the assistance of readers and clergy (including our Pastor Scott Leonard) and candle bearers from Hamilton College. A reception with Christmas cookies, punch and coffee will follow the service upstairs in the chapel. If you want to sing and hear all the Christmas carols to fill you for the month, this is the service to attend! The tradition of the Service of Lessons and Carols dates back exactly 100 years ago to Christmas Eve of 1918 and Cambridge University in England. Planned by the new dean of King's College, fresh from his role as army chaplain in World War I, which had ended the previous month, the service has become a tradition for many colleges around the world.

The Country Pantry: For Christmas they are focusing on collecting **children's lap blankets (but will take adult ones as well), canned soup, fruit and vegetables.** Any donation of food or money will be accepted. As always, the pantry is very thankful for your support.

Fair Trade Shoppe: Come and check out our roomful of beautiful, handwoven baskets from Ghana, Bangladesh and Guatemala; great to fill with homemade treats, towels or magazines. Our beautiful coiled spiced trivet keeps your beverage, kettle or plate warm while releasing the scent of cinnamon and cloves, made from 100% hand-woven Guatemalan fabric.



fill
Our

Our colorful terracotta nativity scene brightens any home around Christmas and is a perfect faith-based decoration for any holiday festivities. Each set contains 8 figurines dressed in handwoven Guatemalan fabric with hand-painted faces, 4 hand-painted animals and a lovely natural terracotta plate on which to display them. We also have a large selection of grinder seasonings, cotton and wool socks, unique and elegant jewelry, ivory candlesticks, journals, hidden compartment boxes and **MANY** more wonderful Christmas gift ideas from 38 different countries in our **FAIR TRADE SHOPPE, STONE PRESBYTERIAN**



CHURCH, 8 SO. PARK ROW, CLINTON. Our hours are 10am to 4pm every Thursday and Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. **LET US BE YOUR GO-TO GIFT SHOP!**

Hope House: This month's wish list includes the following: **shampoo conditioner, soap, toothpaste, razors and VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN COMMIT TO ONE OR TWO REGULAR PICKUPS A WEEK.** IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL HOPE HOUSE AT 315-793-3723. Any donation that you designate for food or personal needs will be greatly appreciated. Any questions, contact Ceil Gilbert (853-8289) or ceilgilbert@yahoo.com



THE CALENDAR

Today – **12/05/21:** 4:00 p.m.
 Thursday – **12/09/21:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday – **12/11/21:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday – **12/12/21:** 10:30 a.m.
 Monday - **12/13/21:** 7:00 p. m. – 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols
Fair Trade Shoppe
Fair Trade Shoppe
Worship
Session Meeting



Want to see what else is on the calendar? Go to our Web page – stonepres.org & click on the “CALENDAR ICON”

Greeter, Host & Communion: Judy LaGasse

Prayer Chain: If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please go to our website www.stonepres.org and click on “Prayer Request”

Members/Friends of the Week:

Judy LaGasse
 Gerald & Nancy Platz
 Cheryl Porter



Prayer Request:

Family of Robert D. Willson
 Lauralyn's Family
 Lauralyn & Rob Kolb
 Bonnie Felshaw
 Patty Lawson
 Michael Britton
 Sara Tolliver
 Erin Todd
 Pat Joseph
 Lori Chamberlain
 Sue Raitt
 Dave & Trish Harris
 Jeff Kolb
 Jim Kubat
 Debra LaFont

