



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Stone Presbyterian Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
December 14, 2025 ~ The Third Sunday of Advent



We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming

PRELUDE "Sleepers, Wake!" J. G. Walther
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER & INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord always! And again, I will say, Rejoice!

**Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.**

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**And the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God.



+HYMN (see insert) "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending" ODE TO JOY
+Those who are able may stand.

WELCOME

THE 3RD ADVENT CANDLE – JOY – Rosalie Wadsworth and Ceil Gilbert

UNISON PRAYER

Dear God, help us to get ready for your arrival.
Show us the path toward you, so that healing and wholeness can come into our lives and into our world.
We offer you our lives in joyous thanksgiving for the love and forgiveness and strength that you so generously give us each day.
Amen.



THE CENTER™

+THE ADVENT GIVING – THE CENTER
(You are invited to bring forward your offering of joy.)



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (first together then in silent reflection)

Holy God, you have sent to us the one true Messiah,
whose ways are grace and truth.

Be persistent in your mercy toward us.

We are slow to learn and hard of heart, satisfied with superficial pleasures,
and treasuring counterfeit values.

We are easily led astray by the pretenders of our age who offer the quick fix
instead of the way of the cross, a message tailored to what is popular, rather
than true.

Turn us from the wrong that we habitually choose.

Help us turn toward you, receive the truth, and know the mercy, peace and
deep joy of your healing grace.

In the name of Christ Jesus our Redeemer we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY (to the tune GLORIA)

Joyfully to God we sing,
To the Son let praises ring,
To the Holy Spirit praise,
This our song of joy, 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

Isaiah 35:1-10 – A vision of the return to Zion.

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

James 5:7-10 – Be patient as you await the coming of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

Told by Donna Goodfriend

ANTHEM

"Magnificat"

F. H. Shera

Matthew 11:2-11 – John the Baptist wonders if Jesus is the coming one?

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

SERMON

"Bundle of Joy"



We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN #368 **“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”** African-American spiritual

+ 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.

The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own home, and his own people did not receive him. But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory, glory as from the only Son of the Father.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional, *Hymnal*, p. 16)
“debts/debtors”

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY **“From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come”** J. G. Walther

+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!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

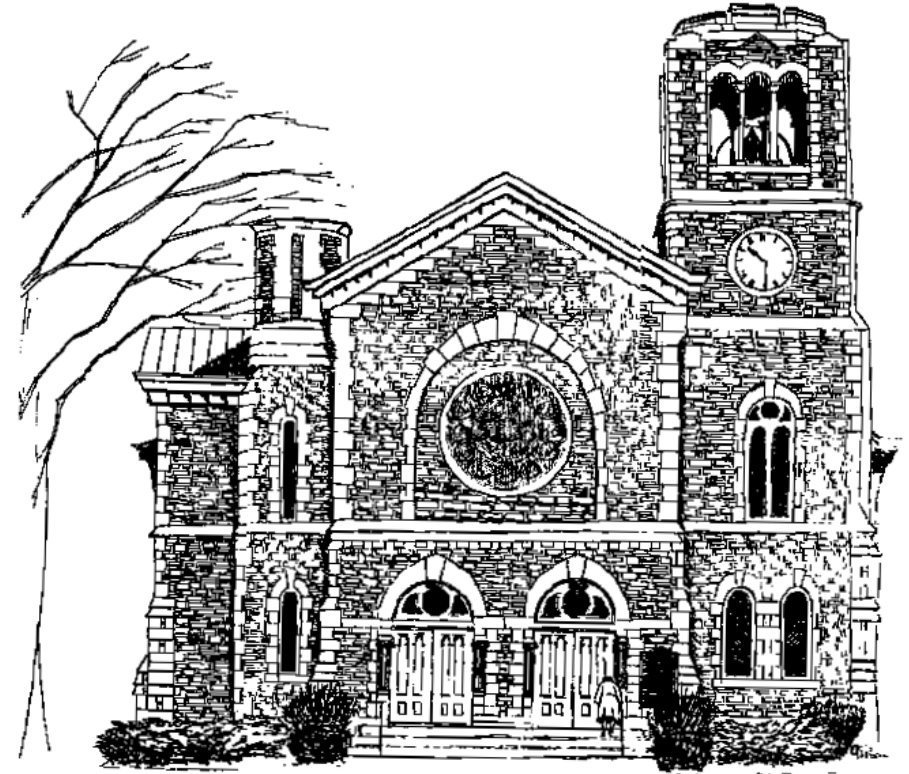
We Go Out in the Joy of Emmanuel

+HYMN 15 “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers” LLANGLOFFAN

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE AND POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP
December 14, 2025 ~ The Third 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

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“Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending”
ODE TO JOY

Charles Wesley, 1758 ~ Adapted, Dennis Dewey 2008

**1. Jesus comes with clouds descending, Lamb of God for sinners slain!
Thousands of the saints attending join to sing this glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! to the— Lord who comes again!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign!**

**2. Yes! Amen! Let all adore you, seated on your gracious throne;
Crowns and rulers bow before you, worship you as Lord alone.
Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus, let your grace and pow’r be shown!
Come, Lord Jesus, come to help us; come to heal and save your own!**

**3. We who saw you crucified and lifted up upon the tree
Now with our own eyes behold you, robed in awesome majesty,
There upon the clouds of heaven we our true Messiah see,
Bringing justice, peace and mercy, joy in setting captives free!**

I’ve Got Peace Like a River

368

African-American spiritual

7.7.11

African-American spiritual

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a strong emphasis on the lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal line. The score is divided into three systems, each with a first and second ending. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, and the piano part is written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first three verses of the song. The second system contains the first two verses of the second ending. The third system contains the first two verses of the second ending.

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in - a my
foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain in - a my
o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in - a my

soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.

15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6 D

Laurentius Laurenti, 1700


Trans. Sarah Borthwick Findlater, 1854

Alt. *The Hymnal* 1982

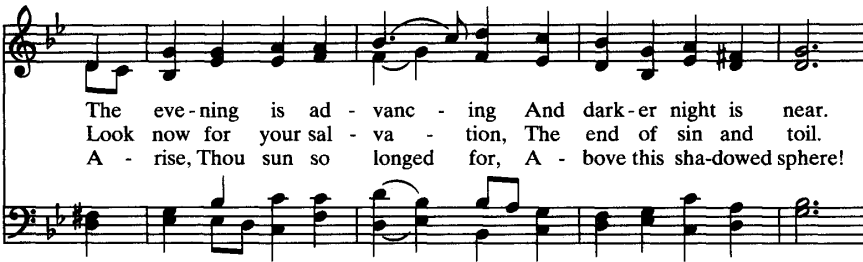
Welsh folk melody

Evans' *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865

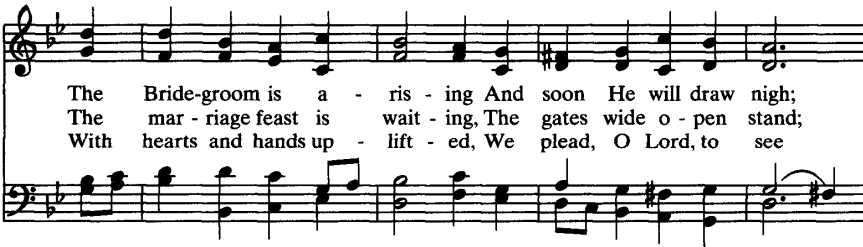
As in *English Hymnal*, 1906



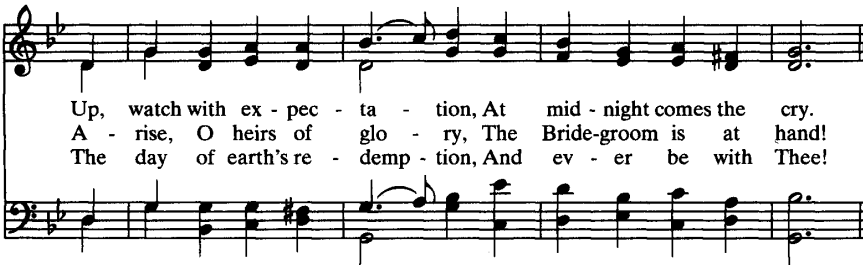
1. Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing, Re - plen-ish them with oil;
3. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing And dark-er night is near.
Look now for your sal - va - tion, The end of sin and toil.
A - rise, Thou sun so longed for, A - bove this sha-dowed sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon He will draw nigh;
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing, The gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion, At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry, The Bride-groom is at hand!
The day of earth's re - demp - tion, And ev - er be with Thee!