



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day  
Stone Presbyterian Church  
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation  
December 21, 2025 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Advent



**We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming**

**PRELUDE**      **“Creator of the Stars of Night”**      David N. Johnson  
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

**POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER & CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 80)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**



O LORD God of hosts, be not angry with your people's prayers.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved**

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved,**

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

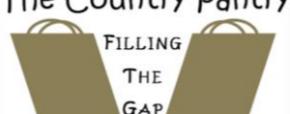
**Let us worship God.**

**+ HYMN (see insert)**      **“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**      sung to LAUDA ANIMA  
+Those who are able may stand.

**WELCOME**

**THE 4<sup>RD</sup> ADVENT CANDLE — LOVE** - Lauralyn Kolb and Judy LaGasse

**+THE ADVENT GIVING — THE COUNTRY PANTRY LOVE OFFERING**      The Country Pantry  
(You are invited to bring forward your offering of love.)



**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love:  
We confess that we are not ready for the coming of your Son.  
Christmas is only a few days away, yet we continue to busy ourselves with concerns that, if we are honest, often create barriers to our connection with you.

Forgive our sin. Call us from our self-centeredness; make us aware and alert and ready for your coming. Help us to understand that what we want is often not what we truly need. Keep us open to the newness of life that you offer in the coming of the Christ, as we lift to you our unspoken thoughts and prayers.... (silent prayer)

**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,  
As this song of love, 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 7:10–16* A young woman will bear a son named Immanuel.**

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

***Romans 1:1–7* Paul is a servant of Jesus, son of David and son of God**

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

**ANTHEM**

**“Carol for Advent”**

Nancy Price & Don Besig

***Matthew 1:18–25* The birth of Jesus Christ**

The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

Told by Donna Goodfriend

**SERMON**

**“We Are Family”**

Peg Ward



## We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+ HYMN (see insert) “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here” sung to MELITA

+ 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. And from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.**

### LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS AND CONCERNS

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
“debts/debtors”

(Traditional, *Hymnal*, p. 16)

### CHORAL RESPONSE

**OFFERTORY**            **“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”**

G. K. Kaufmann

### +A DOXOLOGY

**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 Love of Immanuel

+ HYMN #40

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

+ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+ CHORAL RESPONSE AND POSTLUDE

## **STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP**

**December 21, 2025 ~ The Fourth 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  
PO Box 33, 8 South Park Row  
Clinton, New York 13323  
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](http://www.stonepres.org) ~ [www.facebook.com/stonepres](http://www.facebook.com/stonepres)  
[www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/](http://www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/)**

# Of the Father's Love Begotten

LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
2. Oh, that birth for - e - ver bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
3. This is He whom seers and sa - - ges sang of old with  
4. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore Him, an - gel hosts His

8

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing' pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore Him

14

He the source, the end - ing, He, of the things that  
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the  
prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the  
and ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on

20

are, that have been, and that fu - ture years shall see.  
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sc - cred face.  
long - ex - pect - ed, let cre - a - tion praise its Lord.  
earth be si - lent, ev' - ry voice in con - cert ring

# Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.8

Brian Wren

John Bacchus Dykes

1. Great God, Your love has called us here As we, by love, for  
2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains Of bor - ken trust and  
3. Great God, in Christ You call our name And then re - ceive us  
4. Great God, in Christ You set us free, Your life to live, Your

4

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear, Though  
cho - sen wrong, Half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains By  
as Your own, Not through some mer - it, right, or claim, But  
joy to share. Give us Your Spir - it's lib - er - ty To

7

marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - obeyed. We come, with all our  
so - cial forc - es swept a - long, By pow'rs and sys - tems  
by Your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse Your  
turn from guilt and dull de - spair, And of - fer all that

10

heart and mind Your call to hear, Your love to find.  
close con - fined, Yet seek - ing hope for hu - man-kind.  
mer - cy seat And find You kneel - ing at our feet.  
faith can do While love is mak - ing all things new.

## Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742  
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the  
 ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,  
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow  
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,  
 And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture  
 Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
 And heaven and na - ture sing,  
 And  
 sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.