



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 4th 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 (Traditional, *Hymnal*, p. 16)
“debts/debtors”

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” G. K. Kaufmann

+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 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

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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

Brian Wren

MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.8

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 - beyed. 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.