

# Stone Church of the Brethren

January 7, 2024, Second Sunday After Christmas

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?  
We Trust Our Belovedness

*"I must tell you that claiming your own blessedness  
always leads to a deep desire to bless others. . . .  
It is remarkable how easy it is to bless others, to speak good  
things to and about them, to call forth their beauty and truth, when  
you yourself are in touch with your own blessedness.  
The blessed one always blesses."  
-Henri Nouwen in Life of the Beloved*

WELCOME Pastor Ben

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* arr. John Carter  
Keith Sutton

\*CALL TO WORSHIP\*\* Pastor Ben & Jim Sharrock

Ben: There are some days when I need the reminder  
that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

Jim: *Yes. I do. The world can be a harsh place;  
we often need that reminder.*

Ben: Well then, let us care for one another.  
Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.  
Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

Jim: *Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.*

Ben: God knows our names and calls each of us, Beloved.

**All: I belong to God. I am God's beloved.**

\*SONG *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing* 12

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3: 21-22 Jim Sharrock

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Pastor Cindy

SONG *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*^^ 620

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Ben

SONG *Spirit of the Living God*^^  
(sing twice) 349

MESSAGE You are Loved Pastor Cindy

\*SONG *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*^^ 1078

SENDING\*\* *The Bravest Thing We Can Do*  
by Sarah Are Speed Pastor Cindy

POSTLUDE *Good King Wenceslas* arr. Stephen Otis  
Keith Sutton

*\*Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit*  
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