

# Stone Church of the Brethren

December 1, 2024, First Sunday of Advent

## Words for the Beginning: You are a Blessing

"A young woman in an unexpected place receives a visit from an angel. She is told that she has found favor with God, despite all evidence to the contrary: her location, her lowly position, even her gender in a patriarchal society... [But this is a God] who goes to unexpected places... God shows favor, demonstrating again and again in infinite reversals that human taboo and stigma don't limit the Spirit." -Kelley Nikondeha

WELCOME Pastor Cindy

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Immanuel* Arr. Len Rhodes  
Anthony Bullett

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Cindy

One: God says,  
**All: "Do not be afraid."**

One: God says,  
**All: "I have called you by name."**

One: God says,  
**All: "I will be with you."**

One: God says,  
**All: "You are precious and honored in my sight."**

One: At the beginning of this season,  
**All: at the start of this week,**

One: may we wrap ourselves in these words.  
**All: May we begin again.**

\*SONG *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*<sup>^</sup> 180

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Mike Miller, Sam and Zach Closz

SONG *When God is a Child*<sup>^^</sup> Wren/Carter  
(See insert, v 1)

SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 1: 26-38* Amanda Helfrich

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Pastor Ben

\*SONG *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*<sup>^</sup> 211, vs. 1,2

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY Pastor Cindy

SONG *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*<sup>^</sup> 211, v. 3

MESSAGE *Blessed* Pastor Ben Lattimer

\*SONG *My Soul Proclaims With Wonder*<sup>^^</sup> 181

POEM *Joy and Celebration* Amanda Helfrich  
By Rev. Sarah Are Speed

ANTHEM *Child of God*<sup>^^</sup> Mark A. Miller  
(See insert for text)

SENDING Pastor Ben

POSTLUDE *St. Anthony's Chorale* Johannes Brahms/  
Anthony Bullett Arr. Thomas Geischen

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

<sup>^</sup>Public Domain

<sup>^^</sup>Music reprinted with permission under One License # A-723165

Liturgy adapted with permission from sanctifiedart.org

A special thanks to Yvonne and Jessica Beck for creating this week's square for the worship center. You can find an explanation of each week's square in your pew. The hanging mosaic was created at a Stone Church Retreat by some of the artists sitting around you!

# 165 When God Is a Child

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

*a tempo*

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

fraid.

1-3 | 4

1 Hope is a star tha  
2 Peace is a rib - bon tha  
3 Joy is a song tha  
4 Love is a flame tha

fraid.

1-3 | 4

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936- )  
MUSIC: John Carter (1930- )  
Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company  
Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

GA  
Irreg

*rit.* *to Refrain*

shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When  
cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When  
wel - comes the dawn, tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born. When  
burns in our heart, Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

*rit.*

## Child of God

No matter what people say, say or think about me,  
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what people say, say or think about you,  
You are a child, you are a child of God.

No matter what the world says, says or thinks about me,  
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what the church says,  
decisions, pronouncements on you,  
You are a child, you are a child of God.

And there is nothing, or no one who can separate,  
They can't separate you from the truth that  
You're someone, you are family, you are meant to be,  
A child of God! You are a child, a child of God!



# WORDS

## FOR THE BEGINNING

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WITH STONE CHURCH

#### DEC. 4, 11, 18, & JAN. 8: SACRED SEEING

Join over Zoom for this contemplative dwelling in scripture and art beginning at 7pm. Contact the church office for a link.



#### DEC. 7: ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS BAZAAR

Do your Christmas shopping and support organizations doing good locally and globally - all in the Church Fellowship Hall 9am - 2pm



#### DEC. 8: CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Meet at the church at 3pm to spread cheerful songs and then come back after to share soup and fellowship



#### DEC. 15: TAIZE SERVICE FOR BEGINNINGS AND

6pm in the Sanctuary ENDINGS

Similar to a "Longest Night" service, this service will use Taize music alongside scripture, prayer, and silence to help us offer one another space for the variety of emotions present during the holidays.



#### DEC. 24: CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary & on Zoom to hear the Christmas story, sing, and pray in community.



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

All ages will meet together for songs, stories, and service projects! 9:30am

#### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

10:45am in Sanctuary & on Zoom. There will even be a pageant!!



Favored One | Lauren Wright Pittman  
Digital painting

Let us know you were here!

Scan the code to fill out the

Attendance Form:

