



**Saddle River Reformed Church  
Worshiping at  
Old Stone Church**

**Baptism of the Lord  
Sunday, January 12  
10am Worship**

Minister: The Rev. Leah Ennis-Gasero  
Head Usher: Cathy Lowden  
Reader: Cathy Lowden

(\*Congregation stands as they are able)

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOTUM

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

**Amen.**

*Psalm 124:8*

OUR HOPE: Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 26

Q&A 69

Q. How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

**A. In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins.**

Q&A 70

Q. What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

**A. To be washed with Christ's blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ's blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross.**

**To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives.**

Q&A 71

Q. Where does Christ promise that we are washed with his blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

**A. In the institution of baptism, where he says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

**"The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."**

**This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism "the water of rebirth" and the washing away of sins.**

## Lord's Day 27

### Q&A 72

Q. Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

**A. No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.**

### Q&A 73

Q. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

**A. God has good reason for these words. To begin with, God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as water removes dirt from the body. But more important, God wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water physically.**

### Q&A 74

Q. Should infants also be baptized?

**A. Yes, Infants as well as adults are included in God's covenant and people, and they, no less than adults, are promised deliverance from sin through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith.**

**Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant, they too should be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*HYMN: 465 "Baptized in Water" (v. 1 & 3)**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of glory,**

**you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.**

**We turn away from the poor;**

**we ignore cries for justice;**

**we do not strive for peace.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,**

**and baptize us once again with your Spirit,**

**that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

*Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.), p. 193*

*(Silent Confession)*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Our old selves were buried with Christ, and our new selves were birthed from in these waters, and are raised to new life with him.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting!

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

This is the good news of the gospel, and it is for you and for all.

Whatever you have done, whatever you have failed to do,

whoever you are, whoever you wish you were but are not:

You are accepted, you are welcomed.

You are washed clean, you are raised up.

You are forgiven, you are set free.

In the love of Jesus Christ, you are loved forever.

In the waters of baptism we are set free to let go what is old and broken, to live a new life in the resurrection, and to follow together in a joyful way, after Jesus Christ, our loving Savior.

***Thanks be to God!***

## **THE LAW OF GOD**

## **PSALTER**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

***Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.***

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

***The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.***

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

***He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.***

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

***The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.***

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

***The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.***

***May the Lord give strength to his people!***

***May the Lord bless his people with peace!***

*Psalm 29*

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

***Glory be to the Father;***

***and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,***

***world without end. Amen, Amen.***

**\*HYMN: 292 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"  
(v. 1 & 2)**

## THE WORD OF GOD IN PROCLAMATION

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### LESSONS

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

*Front of pew Bible page 672*

**Acts 8:14-17**

*Back of pew Bible page 126*

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*Back of pew Bible page 60*

**SERMON:** “Manifesting God's Love”

### THE RESPONSE TO GOD

#### CALL TO OFFERING

#### OFFERING

#### \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
praise Him all creatures here below,  
praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.*

**\*HYMN: 291 “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”**  
(v. 1 & 2)

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Graveside burial service for Walter "Skip" Kress is Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 11am**

- Carol Bierwas,
- Linda Kammerer
- Una Ratmeyer
- John Seibert

**Our home-bound members:  
Joyce McClurg  
Laura Parker**

**Mary Breen**  
*(Requested by Kathy Breen)*

**Jay Coblentz**  
*(Requested by Dot Coblentz)*

**Michael Collins; Dina & Mohammed; Frank**  
*(Requested by Jane Collins)*

**Brett Ferra; Bill Conklin; June Conklin; Victor Zeringo**

*(Requested by Cam Conklin)*

**Jean Dunlap, great-grandmother of Zechariah**  
*(Requested by the Ennis-Gasero family)*

**Judy Nygern; Andres Magi**  
*(Requested by Peter Freeman)*

**Avalyn**  
*(Requested by the Gagnons)*

**Anne**  
*(Requested by Eileen Jones)*

**Claudia Kammerer; Roger; Suzette A; Anna Hartung; Bertha Mandel; Denny Thompson; Chris Reilly; Terri; Roger Trespicio; Sydney Sue; Paul & Barbara Sherman; Chris Hernandez; Patti; Diane; Dick Meuer;**

**Horst; Glen DePiero; Skip**  
*(Requested by the Kammerers)*

**Tim P; Joe C; Virginia F; Tom K; Ann S; Dave C; Rich H; Carol B; Gary G; Pat O; Kait L**  
*(Requested by Cathy Lowden)*

**Johnny**  
*(Requested by the McGowans)*

**Rhonda Shapson**  
*(Requested by Nancy Peet)*

**Dorothy Crapanzano; Brian Peters; Cheryl; Paul; Michelle; Emily Bonaventure**  
*(Requested by the Peters)*

**Janet Sandgran**  
*(Requested by the Sew 'n' Sews)*

**Alexa Yannuzzi**  
*(Requested by the Strohmeiers)*

**Marcy Robin; Russell Maitland; Lynn Friedman; Loris Marfilus; Edward Verhulst; Lorraine Kolodziesk**  
*(Requested by Rozanne Sullivan)*

**Vicki Lunghofer; Nellie LaTesta**  
*(Requested by Christine Van Wetering)*

## PRAYERS OF SUPPORT FOR

- RCA missionaries
- The Leadership of the Reformed Church in America: General Synod, Regional Synod of the Mid-Atlantics, the Classis of the Greater Palisades, and our Consistory
- Seminary students at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and the Western Theological Seminary
- Rains to ease the drought
- All victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, drought, and man-made disasters including Los Angeles fires, hurricane Milton, and hurricane Helene
- Leaders of government and international aid organizations
- Those serving our country, veterans, and all peoples affected by war and terrorist attacks including the humanitarian crises in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine
- The victims of mass shootings and their families including those in Santa Rosa, California
- Those working to dismantle racism and break barriers for people living with disabilities
- The poor, oppressed, sick, lonely, homeless, unemployed, exiles and refugees, infirm and the dying, prisoners, caregivers, and those struggling with addiction and mental illness and their families
- The families who have served our congregation through their ministry: Marlyn Minnick, Ellen Springsteen, and Bob & Arlene Fretz
- All those who have lost loved ones

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY** The consistory is inviting everyone to participate in conversations **Sunday, January 12th, 2025 at 11:15am in the SANCTUARY immediately following worship.** At the beginning of the new year, we would like to engage in the beginning of creating a **strategic plan** by listening and taking feedback from a previous survey. Before a single word is drafted, we want to connect and hear what the congregation and those closely connected to it through feel that the Spirit is leading this congregation. We will strive to look for key themes as we discuss a variety of ideas, thoughts, gifts, passions while looking at our strengths and challenges. We look forward to everyone's presence.

**BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY January 19 through February 9, Super Bowl Sunday, we will be collecting soup cans and monetary donations for the Center for Food Action's Tackle Hunger: Souper Bowl of Caring.** Thirty-five years ago, a simple prayer, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat" launched a grassroots, youth-led movement working to raise awareness, food and monetary donations for food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks and other hunger-relief charities within their community. What if everyone watching the Big Game gave just \$1? That would be a gamechanger! **Take advantage of ShopRite's "Can Can Sale" through January to purchase Shelf Stable Milk, Cooking Oil, Canned Hearty Soups, Cold and Hot Cereal,**

**Coffee and Tea, Canned Vegetables & Fruits, Pasta, Rice, & Beans, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Tomato Sauce, and Tuna for the CFA.**

**Activities for children are available in the basket in the back left of the sanctuary.** Please help yourself! How we love to hear the joyful noise of our smallest and cutest members!

**The Deacons will be collecting funds during January and February for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.** The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Consistent with the vision of their founder Danny Thomas, no child is denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family's ability to pay. Each day, they are working toward a cure, so every child who comes to them can be given their best chance to grow up. St. Jude is the first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center devoted solely to children. And with your support, St. Jude can provide cutting-edge treatments at no cost to families — so they can focus on helping their child live. Please make checks payable to “Saddle River Reformed Church” and designate as “Mission of the Month.”

**SRRC Bible Study the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7PM. Next session January 15.** Join Pastor Leah on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Lounge, and via Zoom. If you

cannot join us in person, you can log into Zoom. Go to: <https://www.zoom.com/> Click on “Join” in the upper right Meeting ID: 835 4129 0076 Passcode: 095799

All are welcome to attend and learn with us. If you have any questions, please let Pastor Leah know.

The **Sew 'n' Sews** next meeting will be **Friday, January 17 at 12 noon for lunch at Red Bowl, 26 E Prospect St, Waldwick. Please let Christine Van Wetering know if you'd like to attend - all are welcome!!!** This group is open to everyone! Join us! The group provides each other with lots of laughs, ideas, and fellowship.

**WEEKLY Bible Lunch & Learn: Meets every Wednesday at 11am in the Lounge.**

Mr. James Jones leads us in a bible class. He teaches on a variety of topics and discussions. Around noon, everyone joins in fellowship over a Bring-Your-Own-Lunch. You are welcome to hear new perspectives on scripture and everyday life.

**Time for Fellowship!**

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for **Sunday Iced Tea Socials**. They are weekly, immediately following the service. This provides us with a chance to chat and catch up with our church family while enjoying a treat or two (or three!).



The Saddle River Reformed Church worshipping at the Old Stone Church in Upper Saddle River is a member of the Reformed Church in America, serving the New York and New Jersey area since 1628. The Congregation was formed in 1784.

The Reformed Church is part of the Presbyterian/Reformed Christian tradition. We celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Lord's Supper. The congregation is an inclusive community that believes that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and the Bible (Hebrew and Christian) reveals those things needed by Christians for spiritual development and living. We believe that the people of the church are to follow the way of love and action given to us by Jesus.

***We believe we are at our best when we serve our community.***

**Saddle River Reformed Church worshipping at Old Stone Church**

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201-327-5242

oldstonechurchonline.org  
srrcoffice@verizon.net

Facebook: Old Stone/Saddle River Reformed Church  
Instagram: oldstonechurchnj

***Saddle River Reformed Church Consistory***

**Minister of Word and Sacrament**

The Rev. Leah Ennis-Gasero

Email: [pastorleah.oldstone@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleah.oldstone@gmail.com)

Cell: 518-366-6771

Pastor Leah is off Mondays. She will ONLY respond to pastoral emergencies on her day off, should they arise.

Regular Hours:

Tu & Fri- By Appointment // W & Th 9am-1pm

**Elders**

Peter Freeman, VP  
Cathy Lowden, Treasurer  
Nancy Peet, Clerk

**Deacons**

Cliff Kammerer  
Suzanne Peters  
John Seibert

**Staff**

Rozanne Sullivan  
Director of Music & Organist

Stephanie Doyle  
Office Manager  
Tu-F 10am-2pm

Ken Conklin  
Cemetery Superintendent Emeritus  
In Memoriam