



**Stone Church of Willow Glen - Presbyterian  
Church (USA)  
San José, California**

**June 23, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**The Preparation for the Word**

*Before worship, speak with God. During worship, let God speak to you.  
After worship, speak with those around you.*

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*“Trumpet Tune” HWV 64*

*G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Jim Bender, guest pastor*

**Call to Worship** *(liturgy by enfleshed | enfleshed.com)*

*Charlotte Dickson, Liturgist*

*We are God’s work of art.*

**Each one a precious gem, a marvelous tapestry, a potter’s delight.**

*We are God’s handiwork.*

**Every one of us, woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.**

*We are God’s creation.*

**All of us, touched by grace, saved by faith and beckoned to praise.**

*Together, let us worship the Living God!*

**\*Opening Hymn #220**      *“All People that on Earth Do Dwell”*

1

*All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.  
Come ye before him and rejoice.*

3

*O enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.*

2

*Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk; he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.*

4

*For why? The Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.*

## Call to Confession

*Let us ask God to cleanse our hearts, to redeem our memories, and to renew our confidence in the goodness of our creator. Together, let us offer our Prayer of Confession.*

## Prayer of Confession

**Patient God, your love for us is everlasting and gentle. We need reminders of your grace because so often we stumble. We hold on to old patterns even when they weave tension and disagreements. We blindly push our own way and wonder why others lag behind. The short term good we try to do can create long-term problems.**

**O Lord, let your patient and persistent love hold us tenderly so we may learn to wait for your whisper and follow your way. Ease our white-knuckled grip on having to be in charge, and take our hand and lead us in the way of peace. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

## Silence

## Assurance of Pardon

*The wonder of our faith is this: God cares for us; God still believes in us; God empowers the spark of divine goodness within us and forgives us. Therefore, be confident in God's love and live without fear, for the light of Christ overcomes all darkness and God's mercy endures forever. Amen.*

## \*The Passing of the Peace

*The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

## We Listen To God's Word

### The First Lesson

*Psalm 121 (N.T., p. 571) read responsively*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?*

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

*He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

*The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.*

**The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

*The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.**

### Anthem

*"Let There Be Light"*

*by the Praiselings*

*written by Jess Roberts & Robert Young;  
Jess Roberts, vocals; Justin Penton, guitar*

### The Second Lesson

*Luke 15:11-32 (N.T., p. 78)*

*Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no*

longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

**Sermon**

*“You Finish the Story”*

*Rev. Jim Bender*

### **We Respond to the Good News**

#### **Call for the Offering**

*Friends, God has been generous with us, so let us now return to God a portion of what has been given to our care.*

#### **Offertory**

*“Cavatine”*

*Hans-Andre Stamm*

#### **\*Dedication of the People and Their Gifts Hymn #592**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost.***

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication** (*prayer by enfleshed | enfleshed.com*)

*Loving God, bless these our gifts to the work of your church. Guide us in just practices of giving, sharing, and redistributing our resources among one another and all those in need. Amen.*

#### **Prayers of the People and the 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.**

## We Go Out in God's Name

### \*Closing Hymn #272

*"God of the Sparrow"*

1.  
*God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise*

2.  
*God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save*

3.  
*God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks*

4.  
*God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life*

5.  
*God of the neighbour  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace*

6.  
*God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home*

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Postlude

*"Postludium"*

*Hans-Andre Stamm (b. 1958)*

**\*Those who are able may rise in body or spirit.**

Original bulletin art created by Willow Glen Artist **Lynden Keith Johnson**.

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#### Thank You...

**ASL** ~ Hannah Davis  
**Deacon Greeters** ~ Kathleen Oliver  
**Ushers** ~ Jodi Lax & Jenny Pichon  
**Floral** ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

**Sound** ~ Caryl Westerberg  
**Zoom** ~ Gary Fritz

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#### The Stone Church of Willow Glen PC(USA)

1937 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, CA 95125  
Office Hours M-F 9am - 1pm  
1 (408) 269 - 1593  
www.stonechurch.org  
Pastor's day off: Friday

If you're interested in becoming a member of  
Stone Church, please contact the office  
([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org))

*The Stone Church of Willow Glen acknowledges that the land on which we worship this morning is the  
unceded land of the Muwekma Ohlone people.*

During June, **Men's Mission & Ministry** and friends  
are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.  
All are invited!

**Welcome Guests and Visitors!** We hope you already feel at home among us here at Stone Church. The nearest **restroom** is located between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall; exit thru the double doors at the front of the Sanctuary (near the TV). Everyone is invited for **refreshments** and fellowship in the Social Hall and on the patio after worship. We welcome the sound of any little ones during worship, but if your baby (age 0-3) gets too wiggly for you; you may take them to the **Nursery**, located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall. It's open each Sunday for children ages 0-3.

**The Retable Floral** is in loving memory of David Allen, son of Ida & Bruce Raby.

**Children's Church School Returns in September** -- If your kids need something to do during worship, there are some children's activity boxes available in the Narthex.

**Guest Pastor** – Today we welcome Rev. Jim Bender back to the pulpit! Long ago...2016, Rev. Bender was our Interim Pastor after Rev. Ken Henry left. Jim and his wife Cheryl now live in Capitola.

**Congregational Meeting Today**, following worship. Stay for a short meeting to nominate and elect Elders and Deacons (Class of '27) to serve as officers of the church for the next 3 years, as well as members of the Nominating Committee (Class of '26). Committee annual reports will be available as well.

**Wonder Cotton Candy** will be available after the congregational meeting today! Wonder Cotton Candy is owned by our church neighbors, who are generously providing this treat to the congregation. Everyone is invited!

**Vacation Church School** was held this past week, with the theme "Knights of the Castle"! Although we had a small group, (6 campers, 7 youth helpers, and 5 adult helpers) a lot of fun was had by all!

**Sunday Brunch with the Pastor** – Would you like to get to know Pastor Fred and his wife Terely in a small group over a Sunday potluck brunch? M&C (the Membership & Communications Committee) is arranging "Brunches for 8" after Sunday worship. Sign up today in the Social Hall to either **host** or **attend** a brunch for 8 people. Available brunch dates will begin on June 30.

**Rev Fred Harrell** will be back in the office this coming week, and will preach **next Sun, June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Take Me Out to the Ballgame!** – The San Jose Giants provide family fun at Excite Ballpark, about 3 miles from Stone (588 E. Alma Ave)! M&C has vouchers for **FREE** tickets for the SJ Giants' home game against the Fresno Grizzlies, **this coming Thurs, June 27<sup>th</sup>** (6:30pm). Come by the M&C table in the Social Hall **today** to pick up ticket vouchers for an evening of entertainment. We'll plan to sit together on the 1<sup>st</sup> base line; there's also tasty food on-site at Turkey Mike's BBQ!

**PACT Community Meeting today** (2pm) at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church (2040 Nassau Dr. SJ, 95122). Stone is a member of PACT (People Acting in Community Together) who is sponsoring community meetings with elected officials to gain support for policies correcting housing problems. Come to the meeting to hear the ongoing conversation PACT is having with elected representatives regarding rent control & prevention of eviction, issues that affect San Jose as a whole. District 8 Councilperson Domingo Candelas and possibly State Senator Dave Cortese will attend.

**TrailWalkers** – **This coming Sat, June 29<sup>th</sup>**, we will stroll along nearby Three Creeks Trail and return along Lincoln Avenue, stopping for lunch at the Crepevine restaurant. This is an easy hike of two to three miles, with the length chosen by consensus of those turning out. Park along the first block of Hervey Avenue, south of Minnesota Avenue and meet there at the trailhead; all are welcome! To RSVP or for more information, contact Kathy Stark at [kathystark.4@gmail.com](mailto:kathystark.4@gmail.com) for the meeting time.

**Carole Lathrop Memorial** – All are invited **next Sun, June 30<sup>th</sup>** (2pm).

**Get Involved - The Immanuel House Refugee Project**, a downtown mission started by our Presbytery, says that some of the residents would appreciate **English-language conversations**, and some would like **help in passing their driver's test**. To find out more, send an email to [admin@immanuelhousesj.org](mailto:admin@immanuelhousesj.org). Subscribe to their newsletter to learn of other ways to engage <https://www.immanuelhousesj.org/>

**StoneWorks Committee Donations** recently made for you were: (1) **\$650**, Stone's portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering, to **Sacred Heart for their Pack-a-Back filled backpack Drive**. You can learn more, and make a family donation at <https://www.sacredheartcs.org/>; (2) **\$1,025**, Stone's portion of the PC(USA) Pentecost Offering, to **Willow Glen Cares**, which supports under-resourced students at Willow Glen Middle and High Schools. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram to learn of special needs. They are currently

accepting teen party clothes to offer students for the Homecoming Dance in the fall and will accept school uniforms in mid-July.

**College Scholarships** - PW scholarships are available for first time, as well as returning college-bound students. Applications are in the office (PW mailbox), or contact the office ([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org)). Please direct questions to Nanci Eksterowicz (1-408-887-2965 or ([nancigrace@comcast.net](mailto:nancigrace@comcast.net))). **The application deadline is Mon, July 1<sup>st</sup>**. US mail it to PW of Stone Church, 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ 95125, or send via email to Nanci.

**Volunteers Needed for Communion Prep** – With *weekly Communion* returning in July, the Worship Committee needs to expand their volunteer list for Communion set-up. This involves setting up the table and cloths, preparing bread, wine, and juice; cleaning service items; putting away table & cloths; and preparing Home Communion boxes. You'll work with knowledgeable leads, need to arrive at 8:30 am, and remain a bit after worship for cleanup. With 52 Sundays of communion to prep, as opposed to the 12 Sundays when it was only once a month, there's definitely a need for more helpers. Please consider volunteering. To see if there is a Sunday on which you can help, use the link [https://bit.ly/StoneChurch\\_Communion](https://bit.ly/StoneChurch_Communion)

**Rev. Irene Pak Lee accepts a position at Wasatch Presbyterian Church.** She and her family are relocating to Salt Lake City, UT in July!

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Last Sunday, Irene posted on Facebook: "BIG LIFE UPDATE:

The mountains are calling me home. This morning, the congregation at Wasatch Presbyterian Church called me to be their next Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. After 21 years away, I will be moving back to Utah!

The Bay Area has been home for the past 16 years and California has been home for Marion and the kids their whole lives. We will surely miss our life in San Jose, but God's call for us to move and start this new journey has felt incredibly clear and holy and good.

Wasatch Pres peeps, we love you already.

Bay Area peeps; we are already shedding tears and going through a rollercoaster of emotions as we prepare to leave. We move at the end of July, and will be in Utah to start the new school year in August, and I'll begin my new call on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pray for us as we begin this exciting new journey!"

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She has notified our Session and included these words in her letter:

"I am so grateful for the generous severance and space you all granted me alongside the difficult decision to vacate the Associate Pastor position...

... Although we've already said our goodbyes, this somehow feels like another goodbye. Let us continue to trust where God is leading us. Please know that I will continue to pray for Stone Church and its next steps. You all will always have a special place in my heart."

While we travel through our own transition here at Stone, let us be thankful for the time that Irene was part of our congregation family. May we also remember all of her gifts, her sermons, the star words, and her love for this congregation. Pray for safe travels and happy transitions for our traveling Stone Church family!

Rev. Pak Lee has 18 months to pay off her Stone Church Home Loan, so there's still time to donate to help towards paying the balance down. If you'd like to participate, please put a check in the offering plate or drop/mail it to the office, or donate via PayPal (1.99%+\$0.45 per transaction fees apply). Make sure to note "Pastor Loan" on all payments.





**Rev. Bob Bowles** - It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing of the Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Bowles. He was surrounded by family at his home in La Selva Beach in Santa Cruz county.

Rev. Bowles had had a long pastorate at Stone (1975 – 1994), beginning as an Associate Pastor, and was called as Pastor in 1981. Under his leadership, the church remained strongly connected to the denomination, was deeply involved in the denominational struggle over ordination rules as they pertained to gay/lesbian ordination, worked with expressions of spirituality, including the beginnings of a move toward forming the Taizé service of prayer, and continued to work in areas of social justice.

Bob was a faithful pastor and friend to many, investing his heart and gifts into leading the people of God in the Presbytery of San Jose. He was ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in 1971, served as an Assistant Pastor at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, Pastor at Stone Church and Pastor at St. Andrew in Aptos. After his retirement in 2008, Bob continued his pastoral service as a Transitional Pastor of Los Gatos Presbyterian Church and continued with his service to the Presbytery and the greater church. Bob has been a past moderator of Presbytery, commissioner to the General Assembly, faithful member of many committees, and has been currently serving as one of our commissioners to the Synod of the Pacific. Bob, his wife Margie and his family, have been worshipping at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos where they have been deeply connected and contributing to the life of the church.

Those who knew Bob observed him to be a man with deep faith in Jesus, wise and gifted in pastoral ministry and always full of great love for God's people. Those who served with Bob cherished his quick but kind wit and heart for encouragement. Please keep Bob's wife, Margie and their children, Rob and Amber in your prayers. Cards can be sent to: Margie Bowles 213 Estrella Ave. La Selva Beach, CA 95076.

Memorial service info will be given when available.

**June 23 – 30, 2024**

**Sunday (6/23) Rev. Harrell Off - thru June 24**

9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom  
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH  
 10:30am Congregational Meeting - SA  
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SA

**Monday (6/24) Custodians off thru June 28**

**Tuesday (6/25)**  
 12:30 - 3pm Library Work - Conf.Room  
 7 - 8:30pm Deacons - Conf.Room  
 7 - 8:30pm Session - SH

**Wednesday (6/26)**

**Thursday (6/27)**  
 6:30 - 9pm M&C Event (SJ Giants) - Excite Stadium (588 E Alma Ave, SJ)

**Friday (6/28)**  
 10am - 12pm Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room

**Saturday (6/29)**

**Next Sunday (6/30)**  
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom  
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH  
 2 - 4pm Lathrop Memorial - SA/SH/K  
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SA

**Late JUNE Birthdays** - (23<sup>rd</sup>) Alice Bailey, Carrie Giorgianni, Anne Towler; (26<sup>th</sup>) Bob Fraser; (27<sup>th</sup>) Brian McNelis; (29<sup>th</sup>) Stephanie Easton.

**Late JUNE Anniversaries** - Alice & Brian McNelis (6/22/91); Gary & Shirley Keller (6/30/63).

**Early JULY Birthdays** - (4<sup>th</sup>) Fran Lowry; (5<sup>th</sup>) Lawrence Summers; (6<sup>th</sup>) Alisa Summers, Martha Mamula; (7<sup>th</sup>) Karen Scott; (8<sup>th</sup>) Darlene Snodgrass, Tobi Wessels.

**Early JULY Anniversary** - Sheri & Jack Cunningham (7/5/1964)

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Fran Basso Carter Edwards Gary Fritz Barbara Krause Brad Tips	Jeremy Easton Mel Goertz Jeff Mattan	Maureen Chandler Ruth McCreath Steve Nelson Stan Searing Caryl Westerberg
<b>The Board of Deacons</b>		
Moderator ~ Marta Espinal (marta.espinal@sbcglobal.net)		
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Michele Edwards Kathleen Oliver Nancy Paul Jenny Pichon Maureen Searing	Gail Chaid Sheri Cunningham Janice Goertz Chris Nilson Laraine Pitcher	Neil Coleman Marta Espinal Kerry House-Nelson Karen Wessels

<b>Nominating Committee</b>	
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath (rdmccreath@aol.com)	
Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Janice Goertz Claudia Hamm Steve Nelson	Derk Johnson Don Skipwith Lizanne Oliver

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**The Rev. Fred Harrell** – Transitional Pastor  
[fred@stonechurch.org](mailto:fred@stonechurch.org) off through June 24

**Rev. Dr. David McCreath** - Parish Associate  
 rovinrev@gmail.com

**The Rev. Marge Palmer** - Pastor Emerita

**Nancy Kromm** - Choir Director  
 nancy\_kromm@stonechurch.org

**Barbara Vella** – Organist  
 barbvella2@gmail.com

**Peggy Spool** - Children's Choir Director

**Amber Biscardi** – Interim Church School  
 Administrator  
 amber\_biscardi@stonechurch.org

**Jennifer Scott-Brand** - Office & Facility Manager  
 office\_manager@stonechurch.org

**Ruthanne Martinez** - Treasurer  
 treasurer@stonechurch.org

**ASL Interpreter Coordinator**  
 stonechurch.stephfoisy@gmail.com

**Liliana Borda** - Nursery Supervisor

**Victor & Sonia Perez** - Custodians

**Hilleguus Faber** - Memorial Coordinator

**Lizanne Oliver** - Wedding Coordinator

**Mary Johnson** - Parish Nurse

**Men's Mission & Ministry (MMM)** - Leland Wong  
 hikingscco@gmail.com

**Prayer Chain Coordinator** -Maureen Searing  
 mosearing@gmail.com

**Presbyterian Women** - Jan Keifer - keiferjj@gmail.com

**Stephen Ministry Coordinator** - Michele Smith  
 michelesmith801@comcast.net

**StoneCares** - Stonecares@stonechurch.org

**Web Master** – Jody Meacham - jtmjr@pacbell.net

