



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

**May 4, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
3rd Sunday after Easter**

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

“Alleluia”

*Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Jeff Mattan

Introit

“Thine Is the Glory” From Judas Maccabaeus

*G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Mattan, Liturgist

Come, bless the Holy One, all that is within you—body, mind, and spirit—bless God’s sacred name!

We remember with gratitude all that God has done—mercy that outlasts our shame, and love that refuses to give up on us.

The Holy One works justice for the oppressed, lifts up those who are crushed by the world, and heals the brokenhearted.

Like a mother who knows our limits and a father who sees our hidden wounds, God meets us with compassion.

God’s mercy is not measured by our perfection but flows from a heart full of grace.

Let us worship the One who forgives, restores, and renews—slow to anger, rich in steadfast love.

Bless the Lord, O our souls! With joy and wonder, let us worship.

***Opening Hymn #620 “Praise My Soul the King of Heaven”**

1
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
ever more his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

2
Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

3
Father like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

4
Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Call to Confession

God is tender with us—not harsh, not distant. Like a parent who knows our frame, who remembers we are dust, God invites us not to hide, but to come as we are. Let us bring our whole selves into the light of mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful One, you know us through and through—our quiet regrets, our missed chances to show love, our rush to judgment, our reluctance to forgive.

You see it all, and still, you embrace us. Forgive what has hurt you and others. Heal what is wounded within us. And remind us again that we are dust, yes—but dust held in grace and shaped by your love. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God’s love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our sin.

You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***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 103: 1-14 (O.T., p. 554)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits— who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has

compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

Anthem

“Tree of Life”

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-12 (N.T., p. 192)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

Sermon

“A Psalm in the Key of Blessing”

Rev. Libby Boatwright

Prayers of the People

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

“Cristo Vive (Christ Lives)”

Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

***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**

Gracious God, you have crowned our lives with compassion and mercy. With gratitude, we offer these gifts— a portion of what you have so freely given. Use them to heal, to restore, and to renew, so that your love may reach every corner of this world. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~ Maureen Chandler, Jeff Mattan

Invitation to the Table

Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

...Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

Sanctus

Karl Digerness

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

...Great is the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

...And now as Christ has taught us, we pray together:

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.

*Sharing the Bread & Cup

Communion Music

Hymn #527 “Eat this Bread” (Opt A & B)

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
Trust in me and you will not thirst*

*Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to Christ and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
Trust in Christ and you will not thirst*

Hymn #842 “The Lord is My Light” (Theme I)

*The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
In God I trust; in God I trust*

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, you have met us on the road, you have fed us at the table, and you have opened our eyes again.

Send us out now— with hearts full of resurrection hope, with courage to share good news, and with compassion for every traveler we meet.

In the name of the Risen One, Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

*Closing Hymn #39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

1
Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

2
Summer and winter,
And springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)

3
Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside!**(Refrain)**

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude "Noel Nouvelet (Now the Green Blade Rises)" ark Sedio (b. 1954)

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

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

ASL Interpreter -Stephanie Foisy

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
(officemanager@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 May, **Men's Mission & Ministry** and friends
are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.

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.

Each Week, Stone Church Invites You to Share Holy Communion - We use the intinction method,
dipping the bread in the cup—amber is juice, dark red is wine. When the time comes, we will process

down the center aisle; take bread (in cup or cut – gluten free avail) and dip; the server will say a few words; partake of the moistened bread; return to your seat by the side aisles.

Children's Church School Today – Children meet in Fireside Room (stone building on the other side of the Social Hall) and later come to the sanctuary to participate in communion. If your child(ren) is/are staying with you during worship, there are activity boxes (in the Narthex – entry way) for children to use during the service.

Today the Unity Candle is at [Cornerstone Church](#) (Rev. Joe Sohn). Each week the unity candle travels to a different church in the San Jose Presbytery; please pray for all God's people in this congregation.

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) Boatwright – We have the pleasure again this week to have Rev. Dr. Boatwright preach for us today. She is a pastor who wears many hats: chaplain, pastor, author, and certified financial planner, who's currently a relief chaplain for Stanford Health Care, frequent guest preacher, lecturer, and podcast guest on end-of-life issues, based on her book, The Last Things We Talk About, a compilation of her 35 years counseling people on these issues. She has also been featured in Morning-Star, Barrons, and appeared on ABC's Nightly News. A recent widow, she loves visiting with her sons and their families, and enjoying the outdoors.

First Sunday SHCS Donations – Today, we collect and donate items for Sacred Heart Community Services. Place donated food & goods in the Narthex collection baskets. If you missed bringing something today, consider bringing something next month. Needed items: pop-top cans and other packaged food items (no homemade food); gently used or new blankets and linens; hygiene items of unopened toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.; diapers (both infant and adult); unopened infant formula; new socks, new underwear for men, women and children; and gently used or new sleeping bags

Library Sundays - The adult library in Lincoln House will be open during coffee hour on the *first Sunday of the month* – **Today!** Grab your coffee after worship and go from the Social Hall through the back door of Lincoln House. See what's in our browsing library and check out whatever you'd like. The library is also available to visit during office hours Monday through Friday (9am-1pm). You can also look on the Stone Church web page under Church Life for reviews of some new books and alphabetized listings for our adult and children's libraries

Our Next Monthly Taizé Service is this Tue, May 6th

(1st Tuesday of the month). Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It's a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Mantra songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment. Come explore this time of quiet, music, scripture, and prayer. Sanctuary doors open at 6:30 pm and the service is from 6:45 - 7:30 pm.

Kathleen O'Brien's family is having her memorial service at Center for Spiritual Enlightenment (1146 University Ave., SJ), **Sat, May 17th** (1pm).

Crop Walk - Sun, May 18th, Stone Church will participate in the South Bay 2025 CROP Hunger Walk! This nationwide movement, sponsored by Church World Service, raises funds to end hunger and poverty in the US and around the world. **Sign-ups for walkers and donations begin today in the Social Hall.**

On the day of the walk, May 18th, at 1 pm, join others at Almaden Hills United Methodist Church to start the walk around Almaden Lake. Afterwards, enjoy root beer floats at the AHUM Church! For more info, contact Emily Meacham (emilymm@pacbell.net) or Lizanne Oliver (lizanneoli@aol.com) or visit the CROP Walk web site (<https://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/crop-walk-18996774>)

Willow Glen 5K (walk/run)- **Next Sat, May 10th** Stone Church will be a Sponsor for this event [Willow Glen 5K](#).

- [Register](https://wg5k.org/registration) to **walk**, run, or stroll the event, and consider wearing your Stone Church t-shirt! (<https://wg5k.org/registration>)
- **Join the Team!** When registering, select “Stone Church of Willow Glen” as your team!
- If you live along the [racecourse route](https://wg5k.org/courses/official-wg5k-course), consider **hosting a cheer section** in your front yard, with other Stone Church members! (<https://wg5k.org/courses/official-wg5k-course>)
- **Need a Free Stone Church T-Shirt** to wear on race day? Youth sizes are still available! Contact Joanne Vliet (joanne_vliet@yahoo.com).

If you are worried about the length of the walk – 3.1 miles, never fear, most of our contingent will be walking, and you can “poop-out” along the way if needed. It will be a fun walk, out in our community, showing our Stone Church spirit!

Committee Annual Reports – Notice to Committee Chairs & Moderators, **your committee’s annual report is due into the office by Fri, May 23rd**. Your report should cover from July 2024 through this month, with any projections through June 2025. Reports will be compiled and available at the June Congregational Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the office. (officemanager@stonechurch.org).

May 4 –11, 2025

Sunday (5/4)

8:30 - 9am
9:30 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am
11am - 12pm

Fred - thru 5/10

Choir Practice - SA
Worship & Communion -
Coffee Fellowship - SH
Adult Ed - SA

MAY Anniversaries - Jennifer Scott-Brand and Jeff

Brand (5/23/92); Deborah Crim and Walter Hudson (5/28/72); Rhonda and Bill Lakatos (5/29/71)

Monday (5/5)

9:30 - 11:30am
4 - 7:30pm
6 - 7:30pm
7:30pm

Cinco de Mayo

OMG - Conf.Room
Vivace - SH
Vivace - SA
B&F - Zoom

MAY Birthdays - (2nd) Nanci Eksterowicz, Kelsey

McDaid; Katie Sandoval-Clark, Marshall Sandoval-Clark; (4th) Paul Kanter; (6th) Emily Meacham; (7th) Emma Brand, Chris Nilson; (8th) Lyn Johnson; (9th) Barbara Krause; (10th) Emiko Easton (11th) Glenda Bowman, Ann Pierce; (13th) Julia Kraemer; (14th) Jason Leibowitz; (15th) Kerry House-Nelson; (16th) Lionel Predium; (18th) Derk Johnson, Ruth McCreath & Josh Stevens; (19th) Maureen Chandler; (21st) Jocelyn De Gance, Virginia Thibeaux & Rosaleen Zisch; (22nd) Leta Leggitt & Kaiyo Easton; (26th) Peggy Spool; (28th) Irene Pak Lee; (30th) Catherine Othick; (31st) Mike Breuleux

Tuesday (5/6)

4:30 - 6:30pm
6:30 - 7:30pm
7:30pm

Worship Mtg - Conf.Room
Taizé Service - SA
B&G, CE, StoneWorks - Zoom

Wednesday (5/7)

1 - 3pm
3 - 5pm
Conf.Room
4:30 - 6:15pm
7:30 - 9pm

Amethyst Circle - Zoom
Stephen Minister Leaders -

Vivace - SH
Choir Practice - SH



Thursday (5/8)

9:30am - 12pm
5 - 8pm
7 - 9pm
7 - 9pm

PWCT - Conf.Room
Vivace - SH
M&C - Zoom
MSC2 - Conf.Room

Friday (5/9)

9:30 - 11am
1:30 - 4pm

Caregivers' Support - CR
Liturgical Arts - Room 1

Saturday (5/10)

9 – 11am

WG 5k Run - Willow Glen

Next Sunday (5/11)

9:30 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am
5 - 7pm

Mother’s Day

Worship & Communion -
Coffee Fellowship - SH
Youth Group - SH/K

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Jeremy Easton Jeff Mattan	Maureen Chandler Ruth McCreath Steve Nelson Stan Searing Caryl Westerberg	Judi Kaiser Jodi Lax Matthew Marcotte Marsha Wadley
The Board of Deacons		
Moderator ~ Janice Goertz (janicegoertz@gmail.com)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Gail Chaid Sheri Cunningham Janice Goertz Chris Nilson Laraine Pitcher	Neil Coleman Marta Espinal Kerry House-Nelson Karen Wessels	Mary Jo Blazek Jim Hagan Mary Ann Hudson Jenny Pichon Dorothy Rowe
Nominating Committee		
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath (rdmccreath@aol.com)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>		<u>Class of 2026</u>
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver Susan Bedolla		Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith

WebMaster@stonechurch.org – Jody Meacham
IT@stonechurch.org – Nathan Smith
MMM@stonechurch.org – Men's Mission & Ministry
PrayerChain@stonechurch.org – Mary-Ann Hudson
PW@stonechurch.org – Sheri Cunningham
StephenMinistry@stonechurch.org – Michele Smith
StoneCares@stonechurch.org
SocialMedia@stonechurch.org

Donate to Stone Church



Zelle (No Fees)
OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org



PayPal (Usual Fees)
 Stone Church of Willow Glen

Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor

Pastor@stonechurch.org

Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate

rovinrev@gmail.com

Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita

ChoirDirector@stonechurch.org – Nancy Kromm

Organist@stonechurch.org – Barbara Vella

ChildrensMinistry@stonechurch.org – Amber Biscardi

ChildrensChoir@stonechurch.org – Peggy Spool

OfficeManager@stonechurch.org – Jennifer Scott-Brand

Treasurer@stonechurch.org – Ruthanne Martinez

ASL Interpreter Coordinator

stonechurch.stephfoisy@gmail.com

Nursery Supervisor – Mary Jo Blazek

Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez

Memorial Coordinator – Hilleguus Faber

Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver

Parish Nurse – Mary Johnson