



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

**September 17, 2023 - 9:30 a.m.  
16<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.*

**Prelude**

*“La Fete-Dieu”*

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

**Welcome**

*The Rev. Irene Pak Lee, Associate Pastor*

**Choral Introit**

*“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”*

*Nancy Raabe (b. 1954)  
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

**Call to Worship**

*Bob Fraser, Liturgist*

*In sacred times of worship, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:*

**in every moment, God is with us.**

*Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:*

**in every place, God is with us.**

*In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:*

**in every person, God is with us. Let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Hymn #289**      “O God of Every Nation”

1  
O God of every nation,  
Of every race and land,  
Redeem the whole creation  
with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us  
And bitter threats are hurled,  
In love and mercy guide us  
And heal our strife-torn world.

2  
From search for wealth and power  
And scorn of truth and right,  
From trust in bombs that shower  
Destruction through the night,  
And blindness to your way,  
Deliver every nation,  
Eternal God, we pray.

3  
Lord, strengthen those who labor  
that all my find release  
from fear of rattling saber,  
from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter,  
your still small voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter,  
Your servants undergird.

4  
Keep bright in us the vision  
Of days when war shall cease,  
When hatred and division  
Give way to love and peace,  
Till dawns the morning glorious  
And Christ shall rule victorious  
Over all the world's domain.

**Call to Confession**

*Let us come together before our God and one another to confess our limitations and repent of our wrongdoings, that we might turn toward God and God's ways. Let us pray together:*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Triune God, we confess that we are in need of your healing. Our hearts are troubled by our obligations, our regrets, our fear of the unknown, our anxiety about the past, and our uncertainty about the future. We confess that in our search for a cure to our ailments, we too often fail to turn to you. We forget that you are the source of life and the giver of peace. We forget that you have invited us to rest in you and trust you. Forgive us, O God. Remind us of your ways, and grant us peace that passes understanding.**

**Silence**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*The Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate*

*This is the Good News which Christ makes known to us;*

**We are forgiven!**

*Because we are forgiven,*

**We have peace to share;**

*Because we are loved enough,*

**We have love to give;**

*Because we are touched by God's mercy,*

**We have grace to share; Thanks be to God!**

**\*Gloria Hymn #576**

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia! (2xs)**

**\*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 103:8-13 (O.T., p. 554)*

*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 towards 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.*

### **The Gospel Lesson** *Matthew 7:1-5 (N.T., p. 6)*

*Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.*

**Anthem** *"Cantique de Jean Racine"* *Gabriel Fauré (1945-1924)*  
*with Karen Thielen, harpist*

**Children's Sermon** *Amber Biscardi, Church School Administrator*  
*(Children dismissed to church school)*

### **The Epistle Lesson** *Romans 14:1-12 (N.T., p. 163)*

*Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.*

*Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.*

*We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

*Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.*

**Sermon** *"Be Curious, Not Judgmental"* *Rev. Irene Pak Lee*

## We Respond to the Good News

### **Call for the Offering**

**Offertory** *"Sanctus" Faure Requiem* *Gabriel Fauré (1945-1924)*  
*with Karen Thielen, harpist*

**\*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**

**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 #422**

*"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

1  
*God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store--  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door--  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious Donor of our days.*

2  
*Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.*

3  
*Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace  
conferred,  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Karen Thielen, harpist*

*Feel free to depart quietly. Please be mindful of those enjoying the postlude.  
Please exit thru the back doors, thru the Narthex to the patio.*

**\*Please rise in body or spirit**

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

**Thank You...**

**ASL** ~ Amberle Walsh

**Deacon Greeters** ~ Jenny Pichon

**Ushers** ~ Rhonda & Bill Lakatos

**Sound** ~ Marion Lee

**Zoom** ~ Emi & Amaya Easton

**Guest Harpist** ~ Karen Thielen

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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](http://www.stonechurch.org)

Pastors' day off: Mondays

*Our next Membership Inquiry Luncheon will be in November; if you're interested, please contact [irene\\_pak@stonechurch.org](mailto:irene_pak@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 September, the **Budget & Finance Committee** 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. 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 & the Social Hall. It's open each Sunday for children ages 0-3 during worship.

**Children's Church School Today** - Children attend worship with their parents, and go to Church School after the Children's Sermon. Also, there are some children's activity boxes in the Narthex to use in the Sanctuary prior to the children's sermon.

**Flowers on the Retable** are in celebration of Jan and Jerry Keifer's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

**Adult Ed** (11am Sanctuary) – Rev. Sharon LeClaire will take us on a journey through depression, based on her study and experience with the disease. Depression is one of the most widespread and dangerous forms of mental illness, which are more common than most people think: 1 in 5 families deals with mental illness each year.

**Men's Book Group** meets **tomorrow, Mon, Sep 18<sup>th</sup>** (7 pm) at Art Holtz's, 1771 Frobisher Way, SJ, to discuss "1776" by David McCullough. All men are welcome; even if you haven't read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

**Congregational Meeting** - Session called a congregational meeting for **next Sun, Sep 24<sup>th</sup>** (immediately following worship) to vote on a motion to dissolve the current PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) with gratitude for their service, and possibly elect members to serve on a new Pastor Nominating Committee.

Immediately after the congregational meeting, Session invites you to an informal time of conversation -- an opportunity to share questions, thoughts and feelings regarding the recently concluded pastor search process and any other issues. Pastor Evie will facilitate; Pastor Irene will be there as well as many Session members.

**Prayer Shawl Group** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month, so **this coming Sat, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>** (1pm). Come if you are interested in knitting, crocheting, or come to socialize and see what others are creating. Contact Ginny Barret for details ([ginnybarret@gmail.com](mailto:ginnybarret@gmail.com)).

**Human Trafficking Action Stand** - Since 2016, a faithful group of folks have spent one-hour a month standing on Lincoln Ave. with signs calling attention to human trafficking. Human trafficking is the recruitment, transport or transfer of persons using force, fraud or coercion to exploit them for acts of labor or sex. It is a form of modern-day slavery and California consistently has the highest human trafficking rates. With our "stand" and our signs, we are calling attention to this tragedy that occurs even here in the city in which we live. If this issue speaks to you, please join us as we take our "stand" on **Mon, Sep 25<sup>th</sup>. Meet in the Lincoln House at 8:15 a.m.** Signs and brochures are provided. Questions? Contact Claudia Hamm ([jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com)).

**PW Book Zoom** – Over four Tuesdays, **Sep 19, 26, Oct 3, 10** (7pm), explore contemporary topics in kids' books, such as body image, sexual abuse, queer families, and racial stereotypes. These free zoom meetings are led by Jenna Burkhalter, Director of Children's Ministry & Inclusion at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. More info at <https://sunnyvalepres.com/events/>

**The Peace & Global Witness Offering**, one of the 4 PCUSA nation-wide special offerings, enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. The enclosed insert tells how these offerings will support Syrian refugees who still hope for an end to violence and a peaceful future for their children. This offering will be collected on **World Communion Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**PW's Annual Workshop** will be held **Sat, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>** (9:30-2pm) at Sunnyvale Pres. Church. "*Kids Today: A Changing World*" will explore topics such as mental health issues & stressors in children, online safety, and more. Cost includes lunch. Contact [rmgzisch@gmail.com](mailto:rmgzisch@gmail.com).

**Annual Zephyr Snow Trip** is **January 26-28, 2024**. Pricing is *room rate plus per person charge for food* ~ Room rate (\$280), per adult 13+ (\$77), per child 4-12 (\$57.75), per child 0-3 (FREE). Contact Amber ([amber\\_biscardi@stonechurch.org](mailto:amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org)) to sign-up; or sign-up after worship in the Social Hall; or drop off the deposit at the church office. **A \$100 deposit is required by October 15<sup>th</sup>**, no late sign-ups. Full payments are due the beginning of January.

**Mission Study** - Stone Church's newly appointed Mission Study Committee wants congregational input in preparing a report that will be used in the pastor search process. The report is needed for two reasons: 1) To inform potential pastor candidates about the church to which they are applying; 2) To help all of us (as well as the next Pastor Nominating Committee) understand ourselves and what we feel God is calling us, as Stone Church, to be.

Over the next three weeks, we'll collect questions from you to include in a congregation-wide survey. Perhaps we should ask members questions about: how COVID has affected their participation; how our children's Christian education program works (or doesn't) for their children; what religious and social issues do you think should Stone be grappling with?

Only you know what your questions are; please tell us so we can create our survey to get answers from our fellow members.

Go to the "contact" page on our website at [CONTACT | stone-church](https://www.stone-church.org/CONTACT), write your questions in the message box and hit "Send.". Or you can mail a card or letter to the church office (1937 Lincoln Ave SJ, CA 95125).

**Surplus Items Available To Be Adopted TODAY** – In the Social Hall, on the pew near the piano, are various objects waiting for new homes. Take whatever you can use! Today is the last day they will be available.

**"Hats Off to Libraries!"** Both libraries-- Children's and Adult-- invite you to stop by today and see what's new. The Children's Library (on the Clark Way end of the preschool wing) will have a mystery reader. Who can that be? The Adult Library is in Lincoln House (church office building). After worship the back door should be open. The libraries are accessible during weekly office hours (9am-1pm) and after worship on Sundays.

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**September 17 – 24, 2023**

**Sunday (9/17)**

8:30 - 9am                   Choir Practice - SA  
9:30 - 10:30am            Worship - SA & Zoom  
10 - 10:30am              Church School - Fireside Room  
10:30 - 11am              Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
11am - 12pm                Adult Ed - SA & Zoom  
5 - 7pm                      Chromatic Convergence - SA

**Monday (9/18)**

9 - 11am                    **Irene off; Jennifer off**  
                                  OMG - Conf. Room  
2:30pm                      PW Page Turners Book Group  
4 - 7:30pm                 Vivace - SH  
6 - 7:30pm                 Vivace - SA  
7pm                         Men's Book Group - Holtz's

**Tuesday (9/19) Irene off; Jennifer off**

7 - 9pm                     Session - Zoom

**Wednesday (9/20) Irene off; Jennifer off**

4:30 - 6:15pm             Vivace - SH/SA  
7:30 - 9pm                 Choir Rehearsal - SH

**Thursday (9/21)**

3 - 5:30pm                 **Irene off; Jennifer off**  
                                  Stephen Ministers - Conf. Room  
5 - 6:30pm                 Vivace - SA  
6:30 - 8pm                 Vivace - SH

**Friday (9/22)**

10am - 12pm              **Jennifer off**  
                                  Caregivers' Support - Conf. Rm

**Saturday (9/23)**

9 am - 12pm                SJ Presbytery Mtg - Zoom  
1 - 3pm                     Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Next Sunday (9/24)**

8:30 - 9am                 Choir Practice - SA  
9:30 - 10:30am            Worship - SA & Zoom  
10 - 10:30am              Church School - Fireside Room  
10:30am - 12pm            Congregational Meeting &  
                                  Informal Conversation - SA  
10:30 - 11am              Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
5 - 7pm                     Chromatic Convergence - SA  
5 - 7pm                     Youth Group - SH

**SEPTEMBER Birthdays** – (2nd) Mary Anne Williams; (3rd) Wynn Barnes; (8th) Darline Lohman; (9th) Tracy Rydel; (10th) Michele Smith & Samantha Blodgett; (11th) Carl Blackwood; (12th) Jim Hamm; (16th) Mary-Stone Bowers. (17th) Katie Senigaglia; (19th) George Erickson, Art Holtz, Maureen Searing & Barbara Vella; (20th) Virginia Holtz; (21st) Donna Bell; (22nd) Carol Johnson Fritz; (25th) Nancy Hopson; (29th) Mary Johnson & Michael Wheatley; (30th) Salese Kanter, Sue Evans, Mel Goertz, & Ginger Lubecke.

**SEPTEMBER Anniversaries** - Jan & Jerry Keifer (9/13/58); Sue & Doug Williams (9/14/68); Ida & Bruce Raby (9/18/54); Kim & Jeff Mattan (9/21/07); Peggy & Alan Spool (9/23/84)

**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@sbcglobal.net;

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

**StoneCares** - Stonecares@stonechurch.org

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

## ELECTED LEADERS

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@gmail.com)		
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Fran Basso Carter Edwards Gary Fritz Barbara Krause Brad Tips	Jeremy Easton Donna Erickson Mel Goertz Chris Lee 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	Charla Bunton-Johnson Neil Coleman Marta Espinal Kerry House-Nelson Darrin Johnson 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 Mary Stone Bowers Don Skipwith	

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**The Rev. Evie Macway** – Interim Pastor  
 evie\_macway@stonechurch.org

**The Rev. Irene Pak Lee** - Associate Pastor  
 irene\_pak@stonechurch.org

**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** - Church School Administrator  
 amber\_biscardi@stonechurch.org

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