

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

March 19, 2023 - 9:30 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Lenten Theme-Seeking: Who Sinned?

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

"Adagio from Sonata No. 1"

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) Barbara Vella, Organist

Welcome

The Rev. Evie Macway, Interim Pastor

**Choral Introit** "Seek Ye First"

Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

Call to Worship (from Seasons of the Spirit)

Marta Espinal, Liturgist God of love and mercy, we gather today from different places – both of location and life experience.

Some of us arrive content, others muddled and fractured, still others somewhere in between.

God of love and mercy, as we journey through this Lenten season, we pray for a willingness to be held in all that we are.

We come daring to believe that, in your embrace, joy and hope arise anew. Let us travel together, sojourners in faith, knowing that God goes with us and God is here now.

# \*Opening Hymn #288 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

1

We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey. .

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known, and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne; while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care, and everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.

2

We sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food; he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where ever we turn our eyes, if we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the skies.

### Call to Confession (From Sanctified Art: Words for Worship Lent 2023)

In today's text, the disciples ask Jesus, "Who sinned?" They want to know who around them could be blamed for suffering. The disciples want to identify who around them had done wrong.

In the prayer of confession, we stop pointing fingers at others. In confession, we turn our attention toward ourselves and invite God into that honest and vulnerable space. Let us go to God with our confessions:

#### **Prayer of Confession**

When selfishness blinds us to the needs of others;

#### Forgive us.

When our insensitivity blinds us to the hurt we cause others;

#### Forgive us.

When our prejudices blind us to the equal dignity and worth of others;

#### Forgive us.

When our pride blinds us to our own faults;

# Forgive us.

When our desire blinds us to the poverty of others;

#### Forgive us.

Help us to walk in your light that we know through Jesus Christ, so that your grace, justice, and love may be visible through what we do and say. Amen.

#### Silence

Assurance of Pardon (based on Ephesians 5:8-14)

Nicholas Hurley

"For once you were stumbling in the night, but now you walk as children of light, for your sins are forgiven and you are made whole."

Thanks be to God! Let us walk in the light of the forgiveness of Christ always.

Kyrie #574 (please remain seated)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Kyrie Eleison (3xs)

#### \*The Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

#### Moment for Women's Retreat

# We Listen To God's Word

#### The First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (O.T., p. 259)

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

#### Anthem

"Be Thou My Vision"

Arr. John Rutter. (b. 1945)

Mary Jo Blazek, Church School Administrator (Children dismissed to church school)

# The Second Lesson

Children's Sermon

John 9:1-41 (N.T., p. 102)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Sermon

"Assumptions"

Rev. Evie Macway

#### We Respond to the Good News

#### "Open My Eyes, That I May See" \*Hymn of Response #324

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

2

1

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear. And while the wave notes fall on my ear,

everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

### **Call for the Offering**

Offertory

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

setting by Donald Busarow (1934-2011)

\*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.

#### \*Praver 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.

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere. *Open my heart, and let me prepare* love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

# We Go Out in God's Name

#### \*Closing Hymn #280 "Amazing Grace" (verses 1-5)

1

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound) that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

#### 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed! 4

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5.

When we've been there ten thousand years. Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

3

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come: 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

# \*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Toccata: Aberystwyth" ("Jesus, Lover of My Soul")

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.

#### \*Those who are able may stand.

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

**Artist Note**: For my Lenten discipline this year I am creating a series of images which portray refuge, sanctuary, a safe place. This fourth Sunday of Lent; "A **Lighthouse**," providing for safe travel throughout the world and throughout our minds.

Thank You...ASL ~ Hannah DavisSound ~ David McCreathDeacon Greeters ~ Nancy PaulZoom ~ Andrew ClarkUshers ~ Sue Evans and Karen Wessels

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 March, the **Worship & Taize Committees** and friends are serving coffee & refreshments after worship. All are invited!

Our March 19<sup>th</sup> Membership Inquiry Luncheon was canceled, we will plan our next for November. Contact <u>irene\_pak@stonechurch.org</u>

David Bednall (b. 1979)

<u>Welcome Guests and Visitors!</u> 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, and ages 0-up during Adult Ed classes (11-Noon).

<u>Children's Sunday School</u> – Children attend worship with their families, and then leave for classes after the children's sermon. Please pick up preschool children from Room A at 10:50. All other children are released at that time as well.

**<u>Pew Pads</u>** – Please remember to sign the pew pad and pass it to the next person in your row.

<u>The Retable Florals</u> are placed to honor the birthdays of our office staff with March birthdays: Mary Jo, Jennifer, and Pastor Evie. Thank you for all you do! Enjoy!

<u>New Member Inquiry Lunch CANCELLED</u> - Session will meet with our new member at their next meeting. If you're interested in participating in next November's New Member Inquirer Luncheon, please email Rev. Pak Lee (<u>irene\_pak@stonechurch.org</u>).

<u>Mr. Rogers Day is Tomorrow</u> – "As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has- or ever will have- something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression." Fred Rogers



<u>Men's Book Group</u> meets tomorrow, Mon, Mar 20<sup>th</sup> (7 pm) at Art Holtz's, 1771 Frobisher Way, SJ, to discuss "Our Man in Tokyo" by Steve Kemper. All men are wel-come; even if you haven't read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

Weekly Lenten Taize Services Every Tue, thru Apr 4<sup>th</sup>. Doors open 6:30pm with the candlelit,

contemplative worship service from 6:45 to 7:30pm.

<u>Moving the Office Back to the Lincoln House</u> – Sat, Mar 25<sup>th</sup> & Sun, Mar 26<sup>th</sup> the church office is being relocated from the Main Building back to Lincoln House. We need your help on both days. This coming Saturday morning (3/25 9am - noon) we need people to move the furniture, heavy boxes, and equipment. Never fear...there will be goodies to eat as you help with the move!

Next Sunday after worship (3/26 11am - 2pm) we will relocate boxes. This is your opportunity to wear jeans, tennis shoes and work gloves to church! Get onboard; this will be a great opportunity to get a sneak peek at the remodel...while you are carrying in the boxes! You won't go hungry, as we will provide nourishment for our workers. If you can help on either (or both) days please email Judi Kaiser (kaiser judith@yahoo.com). Even if you don't sign up, just show up! We can use the help; more hands means less work for each!

**The Women's Retreat is a GO!** - We are so excited to announce the dates: **Fri Apr 21<sup>st</sup> to Sun Apr 23**<sup>rd</sup> at the Saint Francis retreat center in San Juan Bautista. The theme is "Knitting Us Together." After missing 3 years in a row, the intention of our sacred time together will be to renew relationships and supportive connections with each other and with our creator. We'll be led by Michelle Walsh, founder of *My Village Well*, an organization focusing on the celebration, empowerment, and support of women in community. This retreat will be the perfect opportunity for renewal. For more info and a registration form, stop by the table in the Social Hall after worship. A magical weekend is coming!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ushering** during a Sunday morning worship service is a great way to get involved in the life of this congregation. It doesn't take a lot of time; no experience needed; training and support are provided. Please sign up at

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ziUJi\_czcCnRFeY0CzeocWX0WgbuZZx9pO3wefC\_08/edit ?usp=sharing If you have questions please contact Jodi Lax (Jodi.d.lax@gmail.com);

# What's Going on Before Easter at Stone Church?

- Weekly Taizé Tuesdays (6:45pm)
- Youth Group Event Broom Ball Sat, March 25th
- Moving the Office!! © Sat, March 25<sup>th</sup> & Sun March 26<sup>th</sup> Can you feel the excitement?
- Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt Sun, April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Maundy Thursday Worship Service April 6<sup>th</sup> (7:30pm)
- Two Easter Services Sun, April 9<sup>th</sup> (6:30am & 9:30am)

<u>Prayer Shawl Group</u> meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month, **this coming Sat Mar 25<sup>th</sup>** (1pm). Come if you are interested in knitting, crocheting, or come to socialize and see what others are creating. Contact Ginny Barret for location and details (<u>ginnybarret@gmail.com</u>).



# **Easter Flowers**

This year, as in past years, the Deacons will purchase Easter flowers for the sanctuary. You can be part of this Stone Church tradition with a donation, to help purchase the flowers, and, at the same time, honor someone special in your life.

The flowers will decorate the sanctuary through Easter, with some distributed to shut-ins on Palm Sunday; and the remainder will be given to the Stone Church staff after the Easter service.

Please complete this form, circle whether the flowers will be in **memory** or in **honor** of the person named, and include a \$5.00 donation for the Deacons' Fund. Make checks payable to Stone Church (note "Deacons' Fund" or "flowers" on the memo line).

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Evans (jaysuee@comcast.net, 408-275-6895), or the church office (office\_manager@stonechurch.org, 408- 269-1593).

Your Name:\_\_\_

In Memory or In Honor (CIRCLE ONE) of

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_

<u>Return the form</u> and your check in the offering plate or leave them in the office manager's box **by March 26**<sup>th</sup>. The names you designate will be printed in the bulletin on Palm Sunday and Easter.

#### March 19 - 26, 2023

#### Sunday (3/19)

| 8:30 - 9am      | Choir Practice - SA       |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| 9:30 - 10:30am  | Worship - SA & Zoom       |  |
| 10:30 - 11am    | Coffee Fellowship - Patio |  |
| 10:45 - 11:45am | PNC - Room 5              |  |
| 11am - 12pm     | Women's Retreat Mtg - R1  |  |

#### Monday (3/20)

2:30pmPW Book Group #24 - 7:30pmVivace (Primo/Treble) - SH6 - 8pmVivace (Treble) - SA7pmMen's Book Group - Holtz's

#### Tuesday (3/21)

6:30 - 7:30pm 7 - 9pm

7 - 9pm Session - SH Wednesday (3/22)

4:15 - 5:15pm Vivace - SH 7:30 - 9pm Choir Rehearsal - SH

#### Thursday (3/23)

6 - 8pm 6 - 7:30pm Vivace (SATB) - SA Vivace (SATB) - SH

Lenten Taize - SA

#### Friday (3/24)

10 - 11am

Caregivers' Support - SH

#### Saturday (3/25)

9am - 12pm 1 - 3pm 10pm - 12am Move Office to Lincoln House Prayer Shawl Ministry Youth Group - Broom Ball

#### Next Sunday (3/26)

8:30 - 9am 9:30 - 10:30am 10:30 - 11am 10:45 - 11:45am 11am - 2pm Choir Practice - SA Worship - SA & Zoom Coffee Fellowship - Patio PNC - Room 5 Office Move

| The Elders of the Session       |                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim |                 |                   |
| Class of 2023                   | Class of 2024   | Class of 2025     |
| Bob Cole                        | Fran Basso      | Jeremy Easton     |
| Derk Johnson                    | Carter Edwards  | Donna Erickson    |
| Emily Meacham                   | Gary Fritz      | Carrie Giorgianni |
| Nina Mundi                      | Meredith Hurley | Mel Goertz        |
| Fred Oliver                     | Barbara Krause  | Chris Lee         |
| Kathy Stark                     | Brad Tips       | Jeff Mattan       |
| The Board of Deacons            |                 |                   |
| Moderator ~ Angie Davidson      |                 |                   |
| Class of 2023                   | Class of 2024   | Class of 2025     |
| Tim Collins                     | Michele Edwards | Nancy Bell        |
| Angie Davidson                  | Morgan Lord     | Gail Chaid        |
| Nanci Eksterowicz               | Wendy Lord      | Sheri Cunningham  |
| Sue Evans                       | Kathleen Oliver | Janice Goertz     |
| Julia Kiplinger                 | Nancy Paul      | Chris Nilson      |
|                                 | Jenny Pichon    | Laraine Pitcher   |
|                                 | Maureen Searing |                   |

**MARCH Birthdays** - (2<sup>nd</sup>) Babila Mfonfu; (3<sup>rd</sup>) Joyce Summers; (4<sup>th</sup>) Kathleen O'Brien; (5<sup>th</sup>) Carol Martin; (6<sup>th</sup>) Mary Jo Blazek; (8<sup>th</sup>) Jan Keifer , Diane Van den Bosch; (10<sup>th</sup>) Lea Lawrence-Moiso; ...... (12<sup>th</sup>) Vern Tegger; (14<sup>th</sup>) Grant Nilson; (16<sup>th</sup>) Caryl Westerberg, Jennifer Scott-Brand; (20<sup>th</sup>) Grant Balao; (23<sup>rd</sup>) Rev. Evie Macway; (24<sup>th</sup>) Fran Cole; (25<sup>th</sup>) Susan Erickson-Viitanen; (26<sup>th</sup>) Kelley Alwood; (29<sup>th</sup>) Cindy Bevan; (31<sup>st</sup>) Eric Bateman.

**MARCH Anniversaries** - (15<sup>th</sup>) Sue & Jay Evans (1969); (19<sup>th</sup>) Nancy & Gary Weiss (1967

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

Mail: 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ 95125 Office M-F 9am - 1pm 1108 Clark Way 1 (408) 269 - 1593 www.stonechurch.org Pastors' day off: Mondays

# **STAFF DIRECTORY**

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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

Mary Jo Blazek - Church School Administrator maryjo\_blazek@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@sbcglobal.net; Stephen Ministry Coordinator - Michele Smith

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StoneCares - Stonecares@stonechurch.org