



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

**May 18, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
5th Sunday of 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

“Fiat Lux”

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

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

“Draw the Circle Wide”

*Mark Miller
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Peggy Spool, Substitute Director*

***Call to Worship**

Christy Wait, Liturgist

*People of God, we gather today not to preserve the past, but to meet the Living God who is
always doing a new thing.*

**We come with stories—old and new, with traditions we cherish and questions that
challenge us.**

*Like Peter, we may be asked to see differently, to welcome those we once called strangers, to say
yes to the Spirit’s wild invitation.*

**May we listen for the voice that says, “What God has made clean, you must not
call unclean.”**

*Come, beloved community—elders and children, doubters and dreamers—Come and worship the
One whose grace has no borders.*

**We come with open hearts, ready to follow the Spirit into God’s wide, unfolding
future. Let us worship with joy and courage.**

***Opening Hymn #401** “Here in This Place”

1
*Here in this place new light is streaming Now
is the darkness vanished away See in this
space our fears and our dreamings.
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken Gather us
in, the blind and the lame Call to us now and
we shall awaken We shall arise at the sound of
our name*

2
*We are the young, our lives are a mystery We
are the old who yearn for your face We have
been sung throughout all of history Called to
be light to the whole human race Gather us in,
the rich and the haughty Gather us in, the
proud and the strong Give us a heart so meek
and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the
song*

3
*Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your
daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Bive us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives
that are holy and hearts that are true.*

4
*Not in the dark of buildings confining Not in
some heaven light years away But here in
this place the new light is shining Now is the
kingdom, now is the day Gather us in and
hold us forever Gather us in and make us
your own Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones Fire of
love in our flesh and our bones*

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession

Before we can follow the Spirit into something new, we must first confess the fears and habits that keep us stuck. We confess not because God needs convincing, but because naming our limitations makes space for transformation.

Let us come honestly before God now, trusting that mercy is already reaching for us.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we, like Peter, often resist the new thing you are doing. We cling to what is familiar, even when it no longer gives life. We draw lines to protect ourselves, forgetting that your Spirit has never honored our boundaries.

Forgive us for the times we’ve hindered your grace— with our fear, our silence, our nostalgia, or our pride. Forgive us when we’ve mistaken tradition for truth, and control for faithfulness.

Open our hearts, O God. Help us to release what no longer serves your kingdom and to follow your Spirit—even when it surprises us. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: The Spirit falls not on the perfect, but on the willing. God’s grace breaks into our lives before we’ve made things right. Christ meets us in our repentance—and even in our hesitation.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are set free to change, to grow, and to love more boldly. Thanks be to God. 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

Revelation 21:1-6 (N.T., p. 254)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Anthem

"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring"

J.S. Bach

The Second Lesson

Acts 11:1-18 (N.T., p. 130)

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Sermon

"When the Spirit Moves First"

Rev. Fred Harrell

Following God's Lead into an Unwritten Future (Theme)

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

"Holy, Holy, Holy" (Nicea)

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**

Generous God, You pour out your Spirit in surprising places and invite us to do the same—with our lives, our resources, and our trust. Take these gifts, given in faith and hope, and use them to open doors, widen welcome, and proclaim your boundary-breaking love to a world hungry for grace. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Communion server ~Emily Meacham

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

Loving God, thank you for feeding us with grace. As we leave this table, help us trust your Spirit, follow where you lead, and become a people shaped by love. Amen.

We Go Out in God’s Name

***Closing Hymn #726** *“Will You Come and Follow Me” (vv. 1,2,4,5)*

1
*Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?*

2
*Will you leave yourself behind if I but
call your name? Will you care for
cruel and kind and never be the
same? Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare? Will
you let me answer prayer in you and
you in me?*

4
*Will you love the “you” you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?*

5
*Lord, your summons echoes true when
you but call my name. Let me turn and
follow you and never be the same. In
your company I’ll go where your love
and footsteps show. Thus, I’ll move and
live and grow in you and you in me.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“Trumpet Tune in G”

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

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

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

ASL Interpreter - Amber Marince

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 [Westminster Pres](#) (Rev. Bryan Franzen). 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.

The Front Wall Hanging is one of the Six Great Ends of the Church (Presbyterian, U.S.A.) which our Liturgical Arts group designed and interpreted in fabric. This is the third: "The Maintenance of Divine Worship," which consists of the two sacraments of the Presbyterian Church---Holy Communion (the cup) and Baptism (the scallop shell with water droplets); Prayer (Jesus praying at Gethsemane as in our stained glass window); Preaching of the Word (open Bible); and singing God's praises as our outstanding Choir does every week (the treble clef), all inspired by the Holy Spirit (dove).

CROP Walk Today! –The 2025 South Bay CROP Walk is at 1 pm **today!** There's still time to sign up for walking and donating! Come by the table in the Social Hall after worship for more information.

Adult Ed Today – (11am FR) **Senior fitness with Amber Biscardi. “Fit for Life: smart and safe exercise for any stage of life”.** Meet in the Fireside Room for this class, designed specifically for older adults who want to stay active, strong, and confident. Amber is a passionate senior fitness instructor with over a decade of experience, and this class will cover which exercises are best for aging bodies; how often to move, and why it matters; proper form and modifications for safety, live demonstrations you can follow and practice.

Whether you're new to exercise or looking to refine your routine, you'll walk away with practical tools to support your health and mobility for years to come. All are welcome — come dressed comfortably and ready to learn, laugh, and maybe even stretch a little!

May 25th - Alice Thorn - the Old Testament. This class will be a sort of wrap-up potpourri; “Why Sabbath?” & “Did Jesus read Greek?” two of the questions considered. Plus, information about how we got today's written Biblical text.

Jun 1st (Matt Marcotte) How to navigate the new Church Website; **Jun 8th** (Bob Cole) Brainstorming Adult Ed ideas.

Men's Book Group meets **tomorrow, Mon, May 19th** (7 pm) in the Lincoln House (office) conference room, to discuss “Amazing Grace” by James Walvin. All men are welcome; even if you haven't read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

Committee Annual Reports – Notice to Committee Chairs & Moderators, **your committee's annual report is due into the office this Fri, May 23rd**. Your report should cover from July 2024 through this month, with projections through June 2025. Reports will be compiled and available at the June

Congregational Meeting. If you have any questions, contact the office.
(officemanager@stonechurch.org).

Prayer Shawl Group meets the 4th Saturday each month at 1pm, **this coming Sat, May 24th**. Come if you're interested in knitting, crocheting, or come to socialize and see what others are creating. Contact Ginny Barret for details (ginnybarret@gmail.com).

Fauré Requiem and More! - Join other lovers of great music on Sunday, June 1st, at 2:00 pm, at Stone Church in Willow Glen for a performance of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and *Contique de Jean Racine* featuring the chancel choir along with local musicians from Santa Clara University and the South Bay. In addition to Fauré's compositions, the concert includes songs, arias, and instrumental works by French composers Camille Saint-Saens; Jules Massenet; and Claude Debussy. It promises to be a reflective afternoon of beautiful melodies and musical serenity. Come, relax and hear the light! Concert is free - donations appreciated.

The Pentecost Offering, one of the 4 PCUSA nation-wide special offerings, helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people. Forty percent of the Pentecost offering is retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. We will collect our special offering on Pentecost Sunday, **June 8th**.

What's New In the Library? 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 items.

Beyond Sunday – At the bottom of the Friday email there is a section called *Beyond Sunday*. This space is to share and celebrate what members of our congregation are doing beyond the church walls—whether it's volunteering, creative projects, advocacy, or professional milestones. It's a glimpse into how faith inspires action in everyday life. This week's email has info about a Memorial Day concert with the SJ Metropolitan Band, in which Joanne Vliet plays in the Clarinet section. In the past we've mentioned other members' concerts, art classes, etc. If you have a project, milestone, or event you'd like to share with our congregation, please send the details (and a photo) to (OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org). This information is not listed in the bulletin, only in the weekly email, check it out!

StoneWorks April and May Donations:

- \$500 to the [California Council of Churches](#)
- \$1500 to [Recovery Café San Jose](#)
- \$1000 to [Church World Services](#), CROP Hunger Walk.
- \$7710 to PC(USA) – Stone Church members' donations to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#)
- \$800 to cover medical and certification costs for Stone's 4 refugees to apply for Green Cards. Everyone in our Roycott House now has Green Cards and Permanent Resident status.

Stone Works meets **Tue, June 3rd** (7pm – Zoom), to allocate donations to mission projects and activate congregational involvement in our community. Contact act Maureen Chandler (maureenLchandler@comcast.net) for meeting link.

Loaves and Fishes – Join Stone Church volunteers who make and serve meals. To join us on Wed, May 28th &/or Wed, Jun 25th, contact Maureen Chandler (maureenLchandler@comcast.net).



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)

MAY Birthdays - (2nd) Nanci Eksterowicz, Kelsey McDavid; 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

May 18 – 25, 2025

Sunday (5/18)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion -
10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
11am - 12pm Adult Ed - Fireside Room

Monday (5/19)

9:30 - 11:30am 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 - CR

Tuesday (5/20)

7 - 8:30pm Session - SH

Wednesday (5/21)

4:30 - 6:15pm Vivace - SH
7:30 - 9pm Choir Practice - SH

Thursday (5/22)

5 - 8pm Vivace - SH
7 - 9pm MSC2 - Conf.Room

Friday (5/23)

9:30 - 11am
Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room

Saturday (5/24)

1 - 3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

Next Sunday (5/25)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion
10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
5 - 7pm Youth Group - SH

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	

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

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