



**Stone Church of Willow Glen -  
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**San José, California  
March 31, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
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**

*“Morning”*

*Edward Grieg*

*Evan Fine, violin; Barbara Vella, piano*

*“Easter Alleluia Medley”*

*arr. Gary Lanier*

*Laraine Pitcher, flute; Joanne Vliet, clarinet; Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor*

**Introit**

*“It is Well with My Soul”*

*Craig Courtney (b. 1954)*

*Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director; Evan Fine, violin*

**Call to Worship**

*Amity Bateman, Liturgist*

*Yesterday we thought death had won.*

*Yesterday we thought all was lost.*

*Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.*

**But not today.**

**Today we know that love has won.**

**Today we know that hope is real.**

**Today we know that Christ is here.**

*We have a reason to hope.*

**We have a reason to sing!**

*Alleluia!*

**Alleluia!**

*Christ is risen today.*

**Christ is risen indeed!**

## Choral Response

*“Fanfare for Easter”*

*Jane Marshall (1924-2019)*

### \*Opening Hymn #108

*“Christ is Alive”*

1

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

3

*Not throned afar, remotely high,  
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns*

2

*Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.*

4

*In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.*

## Call to Confession

*In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, “Jesus is not here,” and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, “Remember what he told you.” Remember. It’s one of the words Jesus used at his last supper, and it’s one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. Remember. I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It’s not enough to hear of God’s grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God’s grace and mercy will never run out. So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember.*

*Join me in the prayer of confession:*

## Prayer of Confession

*The stone is rolled away!*

**We assume it is a mistake.**

*The angels say, “He is not here!”*

**We assume their news is fake.**

*The women tell the story,*

**but we do not want to hear it.**

*Peter runs to the tomb,*

**but we do not understand.**

*Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank.*

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.**

*Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world.*

**Teach us to see what you see.**

*Unravel the threads of our unbelief.*

**Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

*The angels tell the women, “Remember what Jesus told you.”*

*So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God’s grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. Remember this. Amen!*

## Silence

### \*The Passing of the Peace

*The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

## We Listen To God's Word

**Anthem**

*"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*

*Jules Massenet (1842-1912)  
arr. By Diane Bish (b. 1941)*

**Introduction of Fred Harrell**

*Emily Meacham, Interim Search Team*

**The Reading**

*John 20:1-18 (N.T., p. 114)*

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.*

**Sermon**

*"The Gardner of Resurrection"*

*Rev. Fred Harrell*

## We Respond to the Good News

**Call for the Offering**

**Offertory**

*"Meditation" from Thais*

*Jules Massenet (1842-1912)  
Evan Fine, violin*

**\*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 #123    “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

1

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

2

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

3

*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

4

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

### \*Charge and Benediction

**Choral Postlude**

“Hallelujah Chorus”

G. F. Handel

**Organ Postlude**

'Maestoso' from 'Organ' Symphony No. 3, Op. 78 (extract)”

Camile Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

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

**Bulletin Cover Art** – Lynden Johnson. Artist note: My 2024 Lenten discipline has been the creation of images, which include the word “PEACE” in various languages. Peace offered for our hearts, minds, and souls. Peace offered for the congregants of our church, peace offered for all factions of our country, and peace offered for all peoples of our world.

#### Thank You...

**ASL** ~ Hannah Davis

**Ushers** ~ Hilleguus Faber & Kate Wheatley

**Floral** ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

**Sound** ~ Steve Nelson

**Zoom** ~ Brissa Lake

Instrumentalists: (hymns & choral arrangements by Vern Tegger)

Violins: Evan Fine, Tasha Moorjani,

Peggy Spool

Trumpets: Genevieve Kromm, Fred Oliver

Flute: Laraine Pitcher

Clarinet: Joanne Vliet

Trombone: Vernon Miyata

Piano: Leroy Kromm

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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

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 March, **the Deacons**,  
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 & the Social Hall. It's open each Sunday for children ages 0-3 during worship. All older children are invited to participate in the children's sermon time, usually followed by church school.

**No Children's Sunday School Today**, but the nursery is open for children 3 and under. The nursery is located off the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall. For older children, there are some activity boxes in the Narthex to bring into the Sanctuary.

**The Florals** are placed by the Van Den Bosch family for Blessed Easter Resurrection Sunday!

**Rev. Fred Harrell** - We are so happy to have Rev. Harrell preaching for us today! He will join our staff as Transitional Pastor this week. His one task for us this week...he would like us *"to do everything you can to be there on April 7<sup>th</sup> for my first official service as your Transitional Pastor. We will have a covenanting liturgy to begin this new journey, with words of assurance, hope, and intention. Plus, it's the 2nd Sunday of Easter, a/k/a the most depressing Sunday after a big Easter service! So let's make it Easter 2.0 and start our journey with a bang."*

If you've missed any of the previous week's inserts or emails about Rev. Fred, here is a little background. Fred is a native of Central Florida and a graduate of the University of Florida and Reformed Theological Seminary.

After 26 years of founding and pastoring City Church San Francisco (Reformed Church of America) he's taken the last two years to reset, get certified as a Spiritual Director, and begin a coaching practice for pastors and churches. Fred has found that what gives him joy in ministry at this stage of his career is to leverage his experience (the good and the bad!) to assist pastors and churches in this challenging time.

Fred and his wife, Terely (rhymes with the tire brand "Pirelli") have been married since 1986, and have four adult children ranging from 26 to 33 years old.

**Flower Cross** – You can still add flowers and messages to our flower cross. We encourage all to participate.

**Our Monthly Taizé Worship Service** is **this coming Tues, Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>** (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month). Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around & 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.

**Rev. Reyes-Chow's Presentation** – The Friday email provided a link to a PDF version of Bruce's presentation to Session. If you did not receive the Friday email, you can pick up a paper copy of the presentation in the office. If you'd like to receive our Friday emails, please let the Office Manager know ([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org)).

**Westminster Woods** is open for Summer Camp registration <https://www.westminsterwoods.org/>. They're located in Occidental CA, offering summer & weekend programs, challenge courses and more.

**PW's Hudspeth Trust** is again offering scholarships for undergraduate college-bound students. Application forms (pdf) are available via email from [office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org). If you have



questions please contact Nanci Eksterowicz ([nancigrace@comcast.net](mailto:nancigrace@comcast.net), 1-408.887.2965). The deadline for receiving applications is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mail paper applications to PW Stone Church Scholarships, 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ, 95125, post-marked by July 1<sup>st</sup>, or email the completed pdf form to [nancigrace@comcast.net](mailto:nancigrace@comcast.net).

**Vacation Church School** is **June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** (8:45am – Noon). Mark your calendars for this fun week of “Knights of the North Castle!” Email Amber to register ([amber\\_biscardi@stonechurch.org](mailto:amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org)).

**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. If you have questions please contact Jodi Lax ([Jodi.d.lax@gmail.com](mailto:Jodi.d.lax@gmail.com)), or sign up at <https://bit.ly/StoneChurchUsher>



## *2023 Easter Flowers, given by...*

Amity & Eric Bateman	In honor of their child, Raven
Bateman Family	In memory of loved ones who have passed
The Coleman Espinal Family	In honor of Rosemary Coleman as we celebrate her 95 <sup>th</sup> birthday
Sheri Cunningham	In memory of those who have built this church and in honor of those who continue its building
Charlotte Dickson	My parents, Charles & Bertha Ramsburg
Jim Hagan	In memory of Linda Hagan
Claudia Hamm	In honor of Jeanette Rapp who continues to enhance our worship with gifts of liturgical arts.
Mary-Ann Hudson	In memory of husband Glenn C. Hudson
Jerry & Jan Keifer	In honor of: Mary Kate, Max, Holly, Lauren, Eleanor and Matt
Bob & Fran Lowry	In memory of Ruth Lowry & Veronica Augello and in honor of Samantha and Madeline Lowry
Marcia Ludwig	In memory of hiker friends, Vern Sproat, Nancy Martin & Monica Roben
Martha Mamula	In memory of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Milton Mamula
Jeff Mattan	In memory of Fabein Pichon
Fred & Lizanne Oliver	In memory of Eleanor & Arnold Lingle and Martha & Claude Oliver
Kathleen Oliver	In memory of Eugene & Elsie Oliver, William and Else Schmidt, Myrtle Oliver, Melsa Clapp, and Dulcie Janzen
Bruce & Ida Raby	In memory Ruth Weaver and Ewing Shipley, Ida's sister and brother
Jeanette Rapp	In memory of my sister, Dr. Juanita Roderick Latham
Claire Ribble	In memory of Harold and Alice Rathbun
Bill Ribble	In memory of Betsy, Bill and Jaynie Ribble
Dorothy Rowe	In memory of my parents – Elinor and Lester Rowe
Raquel Smith	In memory of Betty Smith and Luiz Barroso

Joyce Summers	In memory of our mothers, Bernice Rich and Mettalee Geesa
The Van Den Bosch Family	In honor of all Stone Church Staff and Supporters
Judy West	In memory of my parents, Anne & Roy West
Nancy Weiss	In memory of my husband, Gary Weiss and Lorin Weiss my brother in law

In memory of those who passed away since last Easter...

Sue Evans, Ed Tablak, Gary Weiss

**March 31 – April 7, 2024**

<b>Sunday (3/31)</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
6:30 - 7:30am	Sunrise Service - SH
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 - SH
3 - 3:30pm	Vivace - SA
5 - 7pm	Chromatic Converg. Rehearsal - SA
<b>Monday (4/1)</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
9:30 - 11:30am	OMG - Conf.Room
4 - 7:30pm	Vivace - SH
6 - 7:30pm	Vivace - SA
7:30 pm	B&F - Zoom
<b>Tuesday (4/2)</b>	
5:30 - 6:30pm	Worship Mtg - Zoom
6:30 - 7pm	Taize - SA
7 - 9pm	M&C - Zoom
7:30 pm	B&G, CE, StoneWorks - Zoom
<b>Wednesday (4/3)</b>	
1 - 3pm	Amethyst Circle - Zoom
3 - 5pm	Stephen Min Leaders - Conf.Room
4:30 - 6:30pm	Vivace - SH/SA
7:30 - 9pm	Choir Rehearsal - SH
<b>Thursday (4/4)</b>	
10 - 11am	Emerald Circle - Zoom
5 - 6:30pm	Vivace - SA
6:30 - 8pm	Vivace - SH
<b>Friday (4/5)</b>	
<b>Saturday (4/6)</b>	
10am - 12pm	Resounding Achord - SA
1- 4pm	Baker Family Celebration - SH
<b>Next Sunday (4/7)</b>	
8:30 - 9am	Choir Practice - SA
9:30 - 10:30am	Worship & Communion - SA
10:30 - 11am	Coffee Fellowship - SH
5 - 7pm	Chromatic Converg. Rehearsal - SA

**Late MARCH Birthday - (31<sup>st</sup>) Eric Bateman.**

**APRIL Birthdays -** (1st) Garrett Balao; (2nd) Cralg Bowers; (3rd) Peter Nelson; (4th) Madison McManus; (5th) Renee Pavlovich; (8th) Lizanne Oliver, Laraine Pitcher, Joyce Linn, & Mary Burfine; (9th) Eric Olson; (12th) Janice Goertz; (15th) Rev. Marge Palmer, Pam Hood, & Rhonda Lakatos; (17th) Michele Edwards, Bob Lowry, Marcia Ludwig & Nina Mundi; (20th) Jody Salzer; (21st) Sheri Cunningham.; (22nd) Allison van Digglen; (23rd) Claudia Hamm; (24th) Gary Fritz & Bill Ribble; (26th) David Leggitt; (27th) Susan Bedolla. & Heather Henry; (29th) Mary Alice Collins & Jerry Keifer; (30th) Jim Hagan & Rod Thorn.

**APRIL Anniversary – Fran & Bob Lowry (4/10/1976)**

<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	

**The Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor**  
fred@stonechurch.org (April 1)

**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**  
(Interim)



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