

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

**November 10, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
25th 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.*

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”*

*arr. by Michael Kearney, (2023)  
Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor*

**Prayer of Lament** *(Responsive prayer)*

*By Rev. Dr. Laura Mariko Cheifetz, Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church*

*God, you who are Breath and Fire, Cloud and Mother Hen,  
You who are Miracle and Shepherd,  
Journey alongside us through this valley  
Where shadows of death from genocide, the Holocaust, hate crimes, gun violence, gender-based  
violence pursue us.*

*Where the demons of fear, doubt, resentment, disdain nip at our heels.*

**God, hear our cries.**

*We write postcards, phone bank, volunteer.  
We hold signs, wear t-shirts emblazoned with messages of hope.  
We have one-sided arguments in our echo chambers.  
We shut everything out and avoid what is hard.*

**God, hear our hope.**

*And all the while we are followed by Despair.  
It finds us on our phones, on our commutes, between classes, in the latest podcast.  
We throw money at it, boycott it, withdraw our subscriptions,  
We post words of condemnation,  
Share funny memes to remind one another of our humanity,  
Crow over our momentary rhetorical victories.  
But still, we struggle to recognize where we are these days,  
This world we thought we knew.*

*We who find ourselves briefly rallied by hope and optimism still fall prey to learned helplessness.*  
**God, hear our questions.**

*We forget that there are people depending on us, young ones who deserve better,  
Disenfranchised and voter suppressed ones,  
People who are not citizens but still deserve a functional government,  
Elders who went through so much protest and pain and work only to see it undone in a single  
Supreme Court case.*

*The ones we haven't met across the world who are being overtaken by rising sea levels.  
We forget that we could claim power over our money and our technology responsible for the  
snuffing out of lives around the world. We forget that we could claim power over the words we  
use, the opinions we hold about those  
around us. We forget that we could claim power over how we choose to be with one another.*

**We forget that your love is more powerful,  
That our love does not have to bow to powers and principalities,  
That our rage is holy.**

*We forget that worship is protest, protest is prayer, and prayer is power.  
We forget that together we are more than a single voice crying out in the wilderness,  
But a collective howl for your justice, beyond our understanding, beyond the daily petty  
injustices wearing us down,  
That made in your image means being made for gospel, for miracle, for hope, for life.  
We forget that hope is what brings down empires.  
Hope transforms us from the cowering masses to the crowds who will not forget.*

**Remind us love is not a pretty feeling.  
Love is an action;  
It is an act of defiance  
Against the very despair winding its way into our hearts.**

*Remind us love grows and transforms the creation like yeast,  
Making something delicious out of chemistry.*

**Love takes scraps and composts it,  
Creating nutrients and life out of all that society considers waste.**

*Love makes a Savior out of a prophet,  
A Messiah out of a teacher.*

**And love can change the world.  
O God, hear our prayer. Amen.**

*Song Lyrics*

<i>Lay it down</i>	<i>All the shame that binds you</i>
<i>Lay it down</i>	<i>And let the cross remind you</i>
<i>At the feet of Jesus</i>	<i>That you are free</i>
<i>All your fears and secrets</i>	<i>Lay it down</i>
<i>All the hurt you hold inside</i>	<i>Lay it down</i>
<i>Lay it down</i>	<i>At his feet</i>
<i>Lay it down</i>	

**Introit**

*“Yanaway Heyona” Traditional Iroquois  
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Jason Gallardo, Substitute Director*

*arr. Brian Tate*

**\*Call to Worship** (from Lamentations 1:2-4; 3:22-23)

Jodi Lax, Liturgist

*In the midst of war and division, we wait for God:*

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end.**

**In the midst of devastation and loss, we wait for God:**

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end.**

**In the midst of change and uncertainty, we wait for God:**

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness, O God!**

**\*Opening Hymn #331** "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" (vv. 1, 2, 4)

<p>1 <i>God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.</i></p>	<p>4. <i>Refresh thy people on their toilsome way; lead us from night to never-ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine</i></p>
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2  
*Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.*

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**Call to Confession** (Matthew 16:24)

*Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**God, who made me in Your image, teach me to love myself as You love me. God, who made me in Your image, allow me to show that image to the world. God, who made me in Your image, help me to see Your image in all those I meet. God, who made me in Your image, teach me to conserve and protect all Your creation. God, who made me in Your image, bless, protect, and keep me and all Your children safe.**

**Amen.**

**Silence**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*The One who breathed life into our lungs continues to be present with us. God, who has made us reflective of God's own image, has forgiven us all and made us new creations. Therefore, since our sins are forgiven, let us go forth with love and peace, honoring and upholding the dignity of all we meet, knowing we see reflections of God's image all around.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Passing of the Peace**

*The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

**PW Thank Offering**

Claudia Hamm

## We Listen To God's Word

### **The First Lesson**

*Exodus 2:1-10 (O.T., p. 49)*

*Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.*

*The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'*

### **Anthem**

*"Give Thanks"*

*from Native American Thoughts by Sherri Porterfield,  
words from Chief Tecumseh, Shawnee (1768-1813);  
Laraine Pitcher, flute*

### **The Second Lesson**

*Exodus 15: 19-21; Numbers 12: 1-2, 9 (O.T., p. 62 & 130)*

#### **Exodus 15: 19-21**

*When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.*

*Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:  
'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'*

#### **Numbers 12: 1-2, 9**

*Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had indeed married a Cushite woman); and they said, 'Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?' And the Lord heard it. ...And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them.*

### **Sermon**

*"Miriam: Silenced Mother of the Woman Prophets"*

*Rev. Fred Harrell*

### **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**

*"Prelude on 'Brother James's Air'"*

*Searle Wright*

**\*Dedication of the People and Their Gifts Hymn #606**

***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**

*Loving God, you call us to share what we have: our time, our money, our attention, our love, our joy, our passion, our companionship. May we join you in building this shared humanity where no one goes without, everyone is welcome, and the abundance of Christ's love is fully known and experienced by all. Amen.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Communion servers ~ Susan Bedolla, Sheri Cunningham, Dick Kistler*

**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.**

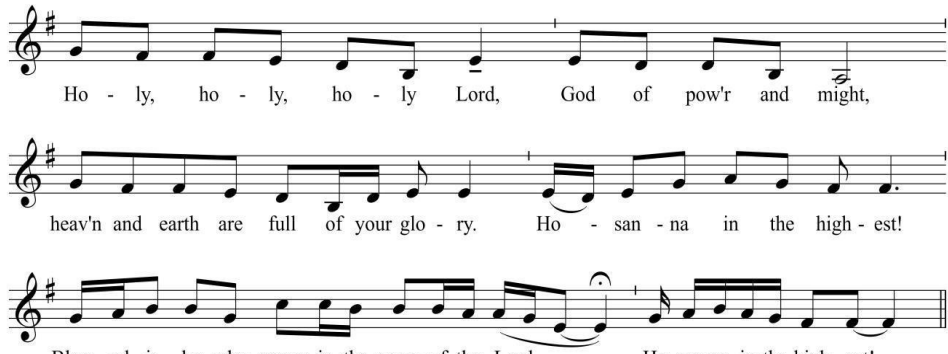
*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**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, 2012



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est!...

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*...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**

*Laraine Pitcher, flute*

**Hymn #527 B GTG "Eat this Bread"**

***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***

**Prayer after Communion** (*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*)

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is discord, union;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

**We Go Out in God's Name**

**\*Closing Hymn #320**    *"The Church of Christ in Every Age" (vv. 1, 3, & 5)*

*1  
The church of Christ in every age, beset by  
change but Spirit led, must claim and test its  
heritage and keep on rising from the dead.*

*3  
Then let the servant church arise, a caring  
church that longs to be a partner in Christ's  
sacrifice and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

*5.  
We have no mission but to serve in full obedience  
to our Lord:  
To care for all, without reserve, and spread  
Christ's liberating word.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"March in D"*

*David N. Johnson (1922-87)*

*Feel free to depart quietly. Please be mindful of those enjoying the postlude.*

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

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

**Thank You...**

**ASL** ~ Stephanie Foisy

**Deacon Greeters** ~ Mary-Ann Hudson

**Ushers** ~ Rhonda & Bill Lakatos

**Communion Set-Up** ~ Diane, Mary & Derk Johnson

**Floral** ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

**Sound** ~ Steve Nelson

**Zoom** ~ Brissa Lake

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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)

Pastor's day off: Friday

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 November, **Personnel & Administrative (P&A)**, **Stephen 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.

**Children's Church School** – Children meet in the Fireside Room at 9:30 am (stone building on the other side of the Social Hall). Children will come to the sanctuary to participate in Communion.

**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.

**Worship Hymns** listed in the bulletin will be from the Glory to God hymnal, unless otherwise noted (i.e. BH for Blue Hymnal, or see insert).

**The Retable Floral** is in honor of all the November birthdays at Stone Church. Enjoy!

**PW Thank Offering** – Along with our regular offering today, we will also take the **Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women**. This is one of two PW church-wide offerings, and gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40% of the offering funds health ministries. Please use the offering envelope in your bulletin. Your support is appreciated.

**Adult Ed Today** (11am/SA) Stone Church & Social Justice (Jody Meacham); **Nov 17:** Ten Commandments (Alice Thorn); **Nov 24:** Lilith (Dr. Barb Fraser).

**See Insert for Information** on Parents' Day Out, and the Wreath Making Workshop.

**Anointing ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays** – **Today** after worship, come up to the front of the Sanctuary (near the piano) for anointing from Rev. Dr. David McCreath; an opportunity for a moment of personal prayer and anointing. Anointing, an ancient practice that continues in today's churches, originally used to designate public leaders, such as kings, or used as part of a healing process for illnesses. At Stone Church, it is used as a symbol of God's grace, an act calling forth the Holy Spirit, a way of demonstrating the presence of God, of the desire of God that we find peace and comfort.

**Stone Church Youth Group Tonight** - 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcomed to join for study, food, fellowship, and fun on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (5–7 pm). Friends are always welcomed. RSVP to Kathleen Oliver ([koliver\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:koliver_2002@yahoo.com), 408-393-7778)

**Taizé Worship** – **This coming Tue, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**, we have an additional Taizé service. Sanctuary doors open at 6:30 pm and the service is from 6:45 - 7:30 pm. Join us for contemplative service at a time when there is a need to foster understanding, compassion, and reconciliation.

**TrailWalkers** - **Next Sat, Nov 16<sup>th</sup>** (8:15am) meet on the church patio to carpool to Almaden Quicksilver Open Space Preserve, for a moderate, somewhat hilly 4-mile hike. To RSVP, or for more info, contact Kathy Stark ([kathystark.4@gmail.com](mailto:kathystark.4@gmail.com)).

**Musicians Needed** for the Advent season. We're looking for musician members or their friends who are interested in making our seasonal music special. For more info, contact Vern, Laraine or Fred ([verntegger@yahoo.com](mailto:verntegger@yahoo.com)), ([lpitcher@comcast.net](mailto:lpitcher@comcast.net)), ([fredoliver@aol.com](mailto:fredoliver@aol.com)).

**Snow Trip Sign-Ups** - The snow trip is at Zephyr Point on Lake Tahoe on **Fri, Jan 31- Sun, Feb 2, 2025**. Sign-up in the Social Hall or email Amber for the details ([amber\\_biscardi@stonechurch.org](mailto:amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org)).

**Men's Book Group** meets **Mon, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>** (7 pm) here in the Fireside Room to discuss "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride. All men are welcome; even if you haven't read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

**Chrismon Tree** – **Tue, Nov 26<sup>th</sup>** (5-8pm) our Chrismon tree will be set up and the Sanctuary will be decorated for Advent. If you would like to help with this, please contact Jodi Lax ([jodi.d.lax@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.d.lax@gmail.com)). We need many strong bodies to hoist the tree, so please help if you are able. Not all the jobs involve strength, so come for a fun gathering that includes dinner! It is a nice feeling to sit in church on a Sunday during Advent and know that you had a part in making the sanctuary a beautiful place for all to worship!

**2025 Women's Retreat** St. Francis Retreat Center (San Juan Bautista) is **Fri, Apr 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun Apr 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. If you are interesting in joining the planning committee, please contact Emily Meacham ([emilymm@pacbell.net](mailto:emilymm@pacbell.net)).

**Making Donations** to Stone Church just got easier; in addition to using PayPal (w/fees) you can now make donations to Stone using **Zelle (no fees)**! If your bank offers the use of Zelle to transfer money, use your mobile app or online banking and search for Stone Church of Willow Glen using [office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org).



Add a note/memo designating the donation. All undesignated donations will go towards your pledge or loose offering if no pledge is available

**Thanksgiving Reading** - Thirteen Books that will make you rethink California's Indigenous History, from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)

<https://openspacetrust.org/blog/california-indigenous-history-books/>

**In-Kind Donation Receipts** are due into the office the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. In-kind donations are goods/items rather than money (or cash) that are given to the church, such as food or supplies to be used for the church or an event: church workday, choir retreat, youth group, office supplies, etc. To have these donations appear on your year-end giving tax statement, please provide the Office Manager an itemized summary, receipts, name of program or event supported, and your name. ([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org))

### **November 10 – 17, 2024**

#### **Sunday (11/10)**

8:30 - 9am           Choir Practice - SA  
9:30 - 10:30am      Worship &  
10:30 - 11am        Anointing & Prayer - SA  
10:30 - 11am        Coffee Fellowship - SH  
11am - 12pm         Adult Ed - SA  
5 - 7pm              Chromatic Convergence  
5 - 7pm              Youth Group - SH/K

#### **Monday (11/11) Veterans' Day - Office Closed**

4 - 7:30pm           Vivace - SH  
6 - 7:30pm           Vivace - SA  
7 - 9pm              Sapphire Circle - Searing's

#### **Tuesday (11/12)**

11:30am - 1pm      PW Lunch Bunch - Taiwan  
12:30 - 3pm         Library Work - Conf.Room  
6:30 - 7:30pm       Taizé Service - SA  
7:15 - 9pm          P&A - Zoom

#### **Wednesday (11/13)**

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

#### **Thursday (11/14)**

9:30am - 12pm      PWCT - Conf.Room  
5 - 8pm             Vivace - SH  
7 - 9pm             M&C - Zoom  
7:30 - 9pm         CE - Zoom

#### **Friday (11/15)**



**Saturday (11/16)**

**Next Sunday (11/17)**

8:30 - 9am	Choir Practice - SA
9:30 - 10:30am	Worship & Communion
10:30 - 11am	Coffee Fellowship - SH
11am - 12pm	Adult Ed - SA
2 - 6pm	Vivace Ornament Deco -
Annual Mtg –	Courtyard
5 - 7pm	Chromatic Convergence -

**NOVEMBER Birthdays** - (2nd) Don Skipwith & Julie Ludwig; (8th) Ida Raby; (9th) Marsha Wadley; (10th) Michael Donald; (12th) Charlotte Dickson; (13th) Dick Kistler; (15th) Doug Williams; (16th) Cathy Marlatt; (18th) Aby Ryan & Carole Brandt; (19th) Sandi Lococo; (30th) Donna Erickson

**Victor & Sonia Perez** – Custodians  
**Hilleguus Faber** – Memorial Coordinator  
**Lizanne Oliver** – Wedding Coordinator  
**Mary Johnson** - Parish Nurse  
**Men’s Mission & Ministry (MMM)** – Bill Ribble  
 bill@ribble.net  
**Prayer Chain Coordinator** – Mary-Ann Hudson  
 majm.hudson@gmail.com  
**Presbyterian Women** – Sheri Cunningham  
 shericnngnm@gmail.com  
**Stephen Ministry Coordinator** – Michele Smith  
 michelesmith801@comcast.net  
**StoneCares** – Stonecares@stonechurch.org  
**Web Master** - Jody Meacham - jtmjr@pacbell.net  
**Social Media** - socialmedia@stonechurch.org

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Jeremy Easton Mel Goertz Jeff Mattan	Maureen Chandler Ruth McCreath Steve Nelson Stan Searing Caryl Westerberg	Judi Kaiser Jodi Lax Matthew Marcotte Marsha Wadley
<b>The Board of Deacons</b>		
Moderator ~ Janice Goertz (janicegoertz@gmail.com)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
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
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath (rdmccreath@aol.com)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver	Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith	



**Rev. Fred Harrell** – Transitional Pastor  
fred@stonechurch.org

**Rev. Dr. David McCreath** – Parish Associate  
rovinrev@gmail.com

**Rev. Marge Palmer** – Pastor Emerita

**Nancy Kromm** – Choir Director - *On leave*  
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