



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

**March 17, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
5th Sunday in Lent**

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

“Antienne”

*Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Joanne Vliet

Introit

“Christ of the Upward Way” (hymn #344)

Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

Call to Worship

Joanne Vliet, Liturgist

Why are you here?

**I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning
in my bones.**

I see it! You’re in the right place! This is God’s house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind, with a fire burning in my bones.

**We see that in you! You’re in the right place. This is God’s house. The door is
open to you.**

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

***Opening Hymn #420** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

1
God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2
Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3
Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4
Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christ like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them not Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

Call to Confession

Friends, when you study Peter's story in scripture it's almost impossible to ignore how much he loved to ask questions. He asks Jesus: "What does the parable mean?" "Where are you going?" and "How many times should we forgive?" Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. I wish I was more like that. I still have so much to learn. So friends, let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, when Peter asked Jesus, “How many times should I forgive?” Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for you as well. No matter what you have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God's abundant grace exists for you. God's love will never run out. So hear and rest in this good news: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are invited to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Silence

***The Passing of the Peace**

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

Moment for One Great Hour of Sharing

Maureen Chandler; StoneWorks, Chair

We Listen To God's Word

The First Lesson

Psalm 119:9-16 (O.T., p. 566)

How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth. I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Anthem

"You are the Christ"

Lloyd Larson

Children's Sermon

Amber Biscardi, Church School Administrator

(Children dismissed to church school)

The Second Lesson

Matthew 18:15-22 (N.T., p. 20)

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

Sermon

"The Math of Grace"

Rev. Dr. Libby Boatwright

We Respond to the Good News

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*"Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir"
(Out of the Depths I Cry, Lord, To Thee)*

Christian Geist (c. 1640-1711)

***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 #426

"Lord Speak to Me, that I May Speak"

1
Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.

2
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The
wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

3.
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

4
O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Tallis Theme (3rd Mode Melody)" Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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

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Thank You...

ASL ~ Hannah Davis

Ushers ~Deborah Crim & Karen Wessels

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

Sound ~ Brissa Lake

Zoom ~ Caryl Westerberg

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

Pastors' day off: Mondays

If you're interested in becoming a member of
Stone Church, please contact the office
(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 February, **the Deacons**,
and friends are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.
All are invited!

Bruce Reyes-Chow's Farewell

*This letter was sent out earlier this week via email. Please note the invitation to all (in bold) to hear Bruce's
report about his time here at Stone. This will take place in the Sanctuary.*

Dear Stone Church,

Greetings all. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather that has been present these past few days.

I promise this IS the last email blast you will receive from me 😊 but first, let me say how excited I am for you
as you will welcome your new Interim Pastor, Fred Harrell, to the community on Easter Sunday. While I will

certainly miss being with you all that Sunday, I cannot think of a better way for Stone to usher in this new season than having it begin when the church boldly and blatantly celebrates the new life that Christ offers.

You will really appreciate Fred's leadership, and I can't wait to see how God's hopes unfold.

So yes, my time is coming to an end and, while I am helping to coordinate worship through Easter, the last time we can interact in person will be when I share some of my observations from the over four dozen interviews I had with so many of you.

**This will take place at the Session Meeting on
TUESDAY, MARCH 19th, 7:30-8:30
right after Taize and everyone is invited to attend.**

I will present an initial report, interact a bit with Session, and then open it up to the rest of the community to respond.

Again, it has been such a joy to be part of this season of the life of Stone Church of Willow Glen.

Peace be with you,
Bruce

Rev. Fred Harrell



Easter Sunday, We will welcome our new Transitional Pastor, the Rev. Fred Harrell. Session approved his contract Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Fred is a native of Central Florida and a graduate of the University of Florida and Reformed Theological Seminary.

In 1996, he founded [City Church San Francisco](#) and led it to a congregation of over 1800 congregants. During that time, the church spawned auxiliary ministries in Counseling, Education, and Social Transformation.

In 2006, Fred helped move the church to an egalitarian position, cutting ties with the Presbyterian Church in America, and realigning with the Reformed Church in America. Then, in 2015, he led City Church to an open and affirming position for

those in the LGBTQ community.

In 2023, Rev Harrell established "Cultivate," a ministry dedicated to promoting the well-being of pastors and fostering thriving churches.

On February 13th of this year, Fred transferred his ministerial credentials to the PCUSA. He is a minister in good standing with The Presbytery of San Francisco.

When queried about the source of his joy, Fred responds, "Anything that draws upon my 33 years of ordained ministry experience." He is determined to leverage those three decades of experience to benefit others in their ministry journey. Currently, Fred is pursuing certification as a Spiritual Director through the Art of Spiritual Direction program offered by San Francisco Theological Seminary. Fred will complete his certification in The Art of Transitional Ministry on March 21st of this year.

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

For more of Fred's story, see [Curiosity and How Listening and Learning Transformed My Life in Ministry](#).

With blessings,

The Session of Stone Church and The Transitional Pastor Search Committee: (Amity Bateman, Steve Nelson, Fred Oliver, Emily Meacham [chair])

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, followed by church school.

Children's Church School - 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.

The Flowers on the Retable are in memory of Junelle Taylor Brandt, sister-in-law of Janice and Mel Goertz.

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) Boatwright; chaplain, pastor, author, and certified financial planner, who's currently a relief chaplain for Stanford Health Care, frequent guest preacher, lecturer, and podcast guest on end-of-life issues, based on her book, The Last Things We Talk About, a compilation of her 35 years counseling people on these issues. She has also been featured in Morning-star, Barrons, and appeared on ABC's Nightly News. A recent widow, she loves visiting with her sons and their families, and enjoying the outdoors.

Adult Ed – (SA/11am) – “I’m Dead, Now What?” Have you prepared your children and grandchildren for your death? We’ll talk about preparing your family ahead of time for a smooth transition to your death. Almost all of us have completed the necessary legal papers yet we have neglected to deal with the everyday facts of our lives. We’ll listen to, then discuss, a TED talk by Zenith Virago, a founder of a National Deathcare Center, called “*Disrupting Death A Guide to Dying Well*”. A good resource guide is “*I’m Dead, Now What*” from Amazon.

Men's Book Group meets **tomorrow night, Mon, Mar 18th** (7 pm) at Vern Tegger's, 190 Benbow Ave, SJ, 95123, to discuss Mel Brooks' autobiography “All About Me.” All men are welcome; even if you haven't read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

Lenten Taizé – **March 19th & 26th**. Doors open 6:30 pm; service is from 6:45 - 7:30pm.

MMM Breakfast – Our Men's Mission & Ministry group invites all to their breakfast and lecture **next Sat, Mar 23rd** (8–9:30am) in the Social Hall. Stone Church member Gary Fritz will speak about how AI is changing healthcare. RSVP to Bill Ribble (bill@ribble.net).

M&C Washi Egg Decorating workshop, **next Sat, Mar 23rd** (1:30-3pm) in the Social Hall. Using Japanese paper, the procedure will be demonstrated, and then you'll make some beautiful, long-lasting egg decorations to take home! After worship, see examples in the Social Hall; sign-up required, so we'll have enough supplies.

Women's Retreat – Still time to sign-up for this fun weekend away! Visit the sign-up table in the Social Hall after worship. Info can also be found in the Friday email.

Prayer Shawl Group meets the 4th Saturday each month, **next Saturday** (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).

The Congregational Survey from our Mission Study Committee went out via email last Wednesday. If you haven't seen it in your inbox, be sure and check your spam folder for “Survey Monkey,” the online survey tool. The survey, for which Stone members submitted nearly 100 questions, is part of the research we're doing to write a Mission Study Report that will describe who we are as a congregation, and what we see as Stone Church's role in our community. **The survey deadline is 11:45 p.m. Wed, Mar 27th**. Because only one survey can be accepted from each email address, if you share one email address with another member of your household, please contact the church office (office_manager@stonechurch.org) for a paper version of the survey so everyone can have a voice. Also please note there is an error for Question #18 RE: “religion in which you were raised.” “Catholic” was

accidentally omitted when the questions were transferred to the online tool and this error cannot be fixed now that the survey is open. We apologize for this omission.

Interfaith Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage! – The San Jose Presbytery's Peace and Justice Work Group (PJWG), needs help with this event, **next Sat Mar 23rd** (7 am – 7 pm). It's a 22-mile walk, symbolizing the distance from Gaza City to the Rafah crossing refugee camp. If you'd rather help out than walk, there are volunteer jobs for every age, physical ability level, & scheduling constraints. The walk starts in Berkeley and ends in Alameda, with a midday rally in Oakland. **Contact Meredith Hurley 734-730-3416) for more info on volunteering and the walk.** meredith.g.hurley@gmail.com.
(<https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/2024/02/interfaith-gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage/>)

Receive Church Updates via Email! - To receive the weekly Friday email and other office updates, please email office_manger@stonechurch.org and ask to be added to our email lists. Our Friday emails give you an early look at Sunday's bulletin and contain additional announcements.

Holy Week Events

OGHS – One Great Hour of Sharing, one of our 4 annual special offerings, is collected **next Sun, Mar 24th**. (Palm Sunday). Through your gifts to this nation-wide PC(USA) effort, you serve people locally and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on **Palm Sunday, Mar 24th**, immediately following worship. Toddlers, Preschool-ers, and Kindergartners to Fifth Graders, are invited to search for colorful, filled eggs.

Flower Cross – During Holy Week, add flowers and/or personal messages/prayers/a word written on a fabric strip (provided) to the flower cross on the church's front lawn. We encourage everyone to participate.

Maundy Thursday Worship (7:30pm) **Thurs, Mar 28th**.

Easter Sunday Services – **March 31st (6:30 am)** "Early Service" in the Social Hall; traditional **9:30 am** service in the Sanctuary. Our new Transitional Pastor, Fred Harrell will preach! No Children's Church School on Easter, but the nursery will be open for ages 0-3 at 9:30 am.

Easter Flowers



As in years past, 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).

Return this form and your check to the offering plate or leave them in the office manager's box **by March 17th**.

The names you designate will be printed in the bulletin on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Questions, please contact Karen Wessels (karenlynnggrant@gmail.com, 650-391-4565) or the church office (office_manager@stonechurch.org, 408- 269-1593).

Your Name: _____

In **Memory** or In **Honor** (CIRCLE ONE) of: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

March 17 – 24, 2024

Sunday (3/17)

8:30 - 9am
9:30 - 10:30am
10 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am
11am - 12pm
1 - 4pm
5 - 7pm
SA

St. Patrick's Day

Choir Practice - SA
Worship - SA & Zoom
Church School - Fireside Room
Coffee Fellowship - SH
Adult Ed - SA
Private Memorial - SH
Chromatic Converg. Rehearsal -

Monday (3/18)

9:30 – 11:30am
2:30pm
4 - 7:30pm
6 - 7:30pm
7pm

OMG - Conf.Room
PW Page Turners Book Group
Vivace - SH
Vivace - SA
Men's Book Group - Vern

Tuesday (3/19)

6:30 - 7pm
7:30 - 8:30pm
8:30pm

Lenten Taize - SA
Bruce's Report - SA
Session - SH

Wednesday (3/20)

12:30 - 4pm
4:30 - 6:30pm
7:30 - 9pm

Organ Tuning - SA
Vivace - SH/SA
Choir Rehearsal - SH

Thursday (3/21)

3 - 5:30pm
5 - 6:30pm
6:30 - 8pm

Stephen Ministers - Conf.Room
Vivace - SA
Vivace - SH

Friday (3/22)

10am - 12pm

Jennifer off

Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room

Saturday (3/23)

8 - 9:30am
10am - 12pm
1:30 - 3pm
1 - 3pm

MMM Breakfast - SH/K
Resounding Achord - SA
Washi Paper Eggs - SH
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Next Sunday (3/24)

8:30 - 9am
9:30 - 10:30am
10 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am
10:30 - 11am
5 - 7pm
- SA
5 - 7pm

Palm Sunday

Choir Practice - SA
Worship - SA & Zoom
Church School - Fireside Room
Coffee Fellowship - SH
Easter Egg Hunt - Patio
Chromatic Converg. Rehearsal
Youth Group Ukrainian Eggs -

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

Alwood; (28th); (29th) Cindy Bevan; (31st) Eric
Bateman.

MARCH Anniversaries –

(15th) Sue & Jay Evans (1969);
(19th) Nancy & Gary Weiss (1967).

The Elders of the Session		
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
The Board of Deacons		
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
Nominating Committee		
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 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: Mondays

STAFF DIRECTORY

The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow – Bridge Pastor
breyeschow@gmail.com

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
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