



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

**August 3, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
18th Sunday in Ordinary time**

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

“Gabriel's Oboe”

*Ennio Morricone (1928-2020)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Charlotte Dickson, Liturgist

Come, you who wake with doubts and those who rise with songs.

We come to seek God's presence, whether in joy or in longing.

Come, you who feel abandoned, and you who cling to hope.

We come to remember God's steadfast love, even in the silence.

Awake, O soul, and sing to the dawn!

For God's faithfulness stretches above the heavens, and God's love never lets us go. Let us worship the One who holds us fast.

***Opening Hymn #39** *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

1
*Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail
not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.*

(Refrain)

***Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!***

2
*Summer and winter,
And springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside!*

(Refrain)

3
*Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)***

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession

We bring our whole selves before God: our praise and our pain, our hope and our heartache. Let us confess the truth of our lives, trusting in God’s mercy.

Prayer of Confession

God of steadfast love, we want to trust you— but sometimes it feels like you are far away. We call, and hear no answer. We hope, and feel no change. We pray, and still feel alone.

Forgive us when we give up too soon. Forgive us when we forget your faithfulness. Remind us again of your promises. Renew our courage to pray, even when it feels like silence. Renew our hope to praise, even before the dawn.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news: The same God who seemed absent to the Psalmist was the One who carried him through the night.

*God’s love is not dependent on our feelings. God’s grace is not withdrawn in our doubt. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!***

***The Passing of the Peace**

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

Hymn #440**“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”**

1

*Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to
thy bosom fly, while the nearer
waters roll, while the tempest still
is high. Hide me, O my Savior,
hide, till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide. O
receive my soul at last!*

2

*Other refuge have I none; hangs
my helpless soul on thee. Leave,
ah! leave me not alone; still
support and comfort me. All my
trust on thee is stayed; all my help
from thee I bring. Cover my
defenseless head with the shadow
of thy wing.*

3

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more
than all in thee I find. Raise the fallen,
cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead
the blind. Just and holy is thy name; I
am all unrighteousness. False and full
of sin I am; thou art full of truth and
grace.*

4

*Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin. Let the
healing streams abound; make and
keep me pure within. Thou of life the
fountain art; freely let me take of
thee. Spring thou up within my heart.
Rise to all eternity.*

We Listen to God's Word**The First Lesson***John 6:35, 41–48 (N.T., p. 98)*

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven. “They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’? “Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.

Slide Show**“The Gate of Heaven”****Craig Courtney***Pacific Northwest photos taken by Rod Thorn*

*Lord of the cloud and fire,
my heart is in your hand.
From the darkness,
lift me to the Light.
Your will my soul command.*

*Lord of the cloud and fire,
lead me to worlds unknown.
Light Eternal,
You alone can change
The darkness into dawn.*

*From the darkness to the Light,
Led by the Lord of cloud and fire,
At Heaven's gate I stand*

*From the darkness to the Light,
Led by the Lord of cloud and fire,
By faith I stand at Heaven's gate,
the house of God.*

*Rise, shine,
Give God the glory*

*Lord of the cloud and fire,
I bow before Your throne.
By faith at Heaven's gate I stand,
And find it home, and find it home.*

The Second Lesson

Psalm 108 (O.T., p. 560)

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make melody. Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn. I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth. Give victory with your right hand, and answer me, so that those whom you love may be rescued.

God has promised in his sanctuary: "With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Vale of Succoth. Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet; Judah is my scepter. Moab is my washbasin; on Edom I hurl my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph."

Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go out, O God, with our armies. O grant us help against the foe, for human help is worthless. With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.

Sermon

"A Story of Hope and Endurance"

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bales

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

"Schmucke dich, O Liebe Seele" (Deck thyself, O beloved soul)

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

***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**

Steadfast God, You have met us in your Word and in your love. Take our lives, our gifts, and our hearts—use them for your glory and the healing of the world. Let our trust in you be our song and our strength. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~Maureen Chandler, Sheri Cunningham, Jim Hagan

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.
Hosana 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, you have fed us with mercy and filled us with grace. Send us out to love as we have been loved. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

***Closing Hymn #620** *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

1
*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
ever more his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!*

2
*Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!*

3
*Father like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows!*

4
*Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

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

David Bednall (b. 1979)

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

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

Many of this summer's bulletin covers will feature pieces from Lyn Johnson's 'Numbers' series, which often references the number three—a symbol of the Trinity.

ASL Interpreter – Hannah Sullivan

Announcements



<https://bit.ly/3FV1Sbv>

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Hard copies available in Narthex

The Stone Church of Willow Glen PC(USA)

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Office Hours M-F 9am - 1pm

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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 August, **Christian Ed** and friends
are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.

Announcements

Welcome Guests and Visitors! We hope you feel welcome 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 patio after worship. **Large Print Hymnals** and **Seat Cushions** are available on the back pew, by the door. **Nursery** - 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 aged 0-3.

Children are always welcome in worship! For their enjoyment, there are activity boxes & books in the Narthex (entry way) for them to use during worship. If you'd like to be notified of any upcoming children's events during the summer, email Amber to be added to her email list. (childrensministry@stonechurch.org)

Stone Church Invites All People to share in 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 pastor will say a few words; partake of the moistened bread; return to your seat by the side aisles.

Today the (Roaming) SJ Presbytery Unity Candle is at [Trinity-Santa Cruz/Urban Works](#) (Rev. Diane Ford). Please pray for all God's people in this congregation.

Flowers this week are in celebration of Joyce and Lawrence Summers' 61st wedding anniversary!

Guest Pastor - Welcome back to the pulpit Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bales. She has been a minister member of the Presbytery of San Jose since April 2012. Jennifer is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and has served as both a chaplain and pastor in various places within the Presbytery.

Jennifer has been married to Alan for over thirty years, and doting on their young doodle dog Zoey is their current favorite distraction.

Today, After Worship - Village Hubs – (11am SA), David Moore (founder of [Certain Together](#)) will give a presentation about Village Hubs. In the event of a major emergency/natural disaster a Hub acts as a central point for neighbors to connect, coordinate, and help each other when formal emergency services are strained or down. Trained volunteers run the Hub connecting needs to local solutions. Jennifer Scott-Brand and Marta Espinal are training to run a Hub. Join us for an informative talk and learn more about the volunteer process and training. Does your neighborhood need a Hub? Invite your friends and neighbors.

First Sunday SHCS Donations – **Today**, we collect and donate items for Sacred Heart Community Services. Place donated food & goods in the Narthex collection baskets. If you missed bringing something today, consider bringing something next month. Needed items: pop-top cans and other packaged food items (no homemade food); gently used or new blankets and linens; hygiene items of unopened toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.; diapers (both infant and adult); unopened infant formula; new socks, new underwear for men, women and children; and gently used or new sleeping bags

Library Sundays (1st Sunday) – **Today**, the adult library in the Lincoln House will be open during coffee hour. Exit the back of the Social Hall and enter the Lincoln House using the back door. See what's in our browsing library and check out what you'd like. Also, the library is open during office hours (M-F 9am-1pm). Check the church webpage under Church Life for book reviews and alphabetized listings for our adult and children's libraries.

Rev. Fred Harrell is on vacation through August 9th. **Next week Aug 10th** Keri Ladouceur, Exec. Director of the Post-Evangelical Collective will be in the pulpit, with Rev Harrell as the Liturgist. After worship (11am) Keri will speak about the Post-Evangelical Collective.

Our Monthly Taizé is **this Tues, Aug 5th** (1st 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 and 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.

Men's Book Group meets **Mon, Aug 18th** (7 pm), in the Lincoln House (office) conference room, to discuss "On the Hippie Trail" by Rick Steves. All men welcome-- enjoy the conversation, wine & snacks.

Silicon Valley Pride – **Sat, Aug 30th – Sun, Aug 31st**. Stone Church will participate this year at the Pride Interfaith Booth. Sign-ups for greeters at the booth will be available soon. For now, mark the date, and if you have any questions, contact Rhonda Lakatos (brlakatos@comcast.net).

Family and Youth Ministry Director - Session has officially called Malia Clark as our Family and Youth Ministry Director, beginning Aug 1st. Welcome Malia!

Malia is no stranger to our congregation. Many of you got to know her this past spring as she co-led our confirmation course—offering wisdom, warmth, and deep care for our youth and families. Through that experience, and in countless informal connections, we've seen firsthand her gifts for building relationships, creating space for faith exploration, and walking alongside young people as they grow.

This is a significant investment in the future vitality of our church. We know that vibrant, healthy ministries for youth and families are at the heart of a thriving congregation. By calling Malia into this role, we are committing ourselves to nurture young people, strengthen family connections, and build a church community where belonging, growth, and faith can flourish for years to come.

Camping-Themed VCS – This year, Vacation Church School is our first ever OVERNIGHT VCS - **Fri, Sept 5th (5pm) through to Sat, Sept 6th (3pm)**! We'll have dinner, campfire, games, a sleep-over, breakfast, and a day of fun filled camp on Saturday. We are looking for campers, as well as teen and adult helpers. Please come and participate in whatever portion you can. The camp is designed for ages 5+; campers (and helpers) do not need to spend the night but can leave and return on Saturday for a day of fun. Registration forms are available in the Friday email, in the church office or email [Amber. childrensministry@stonechurch.org](mailto:childrensministry@stonechurch.org).

August 3 – 10, 2025

Sunday (8/3) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9
9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion - SA & Zoom
10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
11am - 12pm Village Hubs - Certain Together - SA
5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SH

Monday (8/4) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9
9:30 - 11:30am OMG - Conf.Room
7:30pm B&F - Zoom

Tuesday (8/5) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9
4:30 - 6:30pm Worship Mtg - Conf.Room
6:30 - 7:30pm Taizé Service - SA
7:30pm B&G, CE, StoneWorks - Zoom

Wednesday (8/6) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9
1 - 3pm Amethyst Circle - Zoom
3 - 5pm Stephen Minister Leaders - Conf.Room

Thursday (8/7) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9
10 - 11am Emerald Circle - Zoom

Friday (8/8) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9
10 - 11:30am Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room

Saturday (8/9) Fred H Vacation through Sat 8/9

Next Sunday (8/10)

9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom
10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SA

AUGUST Birthdays - (2nd) Don D'Angelo & Alice Thorn; (3rd) Walter Roach; (5th) Bob Cole; (8th) Devon Brook; (9) Andrew Clark, Shenshen Zhang; (10th) Hilleguus Faber; (11th) Beth Lococo; (12th) James Lathrop; (15th) Jenny Pichon; (16th) Jordan Guenther; (17th) Matt Coleman; (18th) Christopher Smith; (21st) Mary-Ann Hudson; (22nd) Bruce Raby; (24th) Caitlin Tips; (26th) Allen Bartu & Angie Davidson; (28th) Jodi Leibowitz; (30th) Marion Lee.

AUGUST Anniversaries - Joyce & Lawrence Summers (8/2/64); Lizanne & Fred Oliver (8/8/70); Sandi & John Lococo

(8/16/81); Virginia & Art Holtz (8/20/60); Josh & Kelley Alwood (8/30/08)

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Maureen Chandler Ruth McCreath Steve Nelson Stan Searing Caryl Westerberg	Judi Kaiser Jodi Lax Matthew Marcotte Marsha Wadley	Neale Barret Amity Bateman Stephanie Easton Joanne Vliet
The Board of Deacons		
Moderator ~ Marta Espinal (marta.espinal@sbcglobal.net)		
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
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Nominating Committee		
Chair ~ Amity Bateman (amity.bateman@gmail.com)		
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	
Susan Bedolla Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith	Janice Goertz Suzanne Wolf	

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 Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate
rovinrev@gmail.com
 Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita
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 Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez
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 Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver
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Stone Church of Willow Glen

