



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

**April 21, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> 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**

*“Sheep May Safely Graze”*

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

**Introit**

*“Canticle to the Spirit”*

*Eleanor Daley  
Los Angeles Children’s Chorus Intermediate Choir;  
Fred Meade, Associate Artistic Director*

**Call to Worship**

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!*

**The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*With grateful hearts we praise you, O Christ.*

**You lived to show us what true life is like,  
you died to show us that sin and violence lead to death, you rose to raise us up to eternal life.**

**Help us to grow in your likeness, that we might love as you loved. Amen.**

*Matt Marcotte, Liturgist*

**\*Opening Hymn #356** “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

1

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it  
mount of God's redeeming love.*

2

*Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by Thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
bought me with his precious blood.*

3

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee:  
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.*

**Call to Confession** (Proverbs 3:5-6)

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. Acknowledge God in all your ways, and God will direct your paths.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Loving God, we confess that we are often filled with confusion and anxiety, the path forward is unclear, and it is difficult to follow Jesus. It is easier to fall into tired habits and coping strategies, instead of looking to you for solace and comfort. Still our restless hearts, bring peace to our worried and frantic minds, and fill us with the assurance of your loving presence. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

*“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

*“Where, O death, is your victory?”*

*“Where, O death, is your sting?”*

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*This is the good news.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Silence**

**\*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**

*Psalm 23 (O.T., p. 501)*

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

### **Anthem**

*"¡El Cielo Canta Alegría!"*

*Pablo Sosa,  
arr. Roger Bergs*

### **Children's Sermon**

*Amber Biscardi, Church School Administrator  
(Children dismissed to church school)*

### **The Second Lesson**

*Acts 9:1-9 (N.T., p. 127)*

*Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.*

### **Sermon**

*"Moment of Reckoning"*

*Rev. Fred Harrell*

## 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**

*"Neno lake Mungo"  
(Tanzanian tune: Listen, God is Calling)*

*Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)*

### **\*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**

**Loving God, all that we have and all that we are come from you, so we gladly give this offering, that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## 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

*"Amazing Grace" (tune-Hymn 280 - lyric change)*

1

*Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)*

***\*that saved and set me free!\****

*I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see!*

2

*Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my dear's relieved.*

*How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.*

3

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;*

*God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.*

4

*And when our flesh and heart decay  
and mortal life shall cease,*

*by grace we'll tread a better way,  
a live with joy and peace.*

5

*When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,*

*we've no less days to sing God's praise,  
than when we'd first begun.*

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Postlude

*"Al Shlosha D'Varim"*

*Allan Naplan*

*"Climbin' up the Mountain, Children!"*

*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Rollo Dilworth*

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

*Please exit thru the back doors, thru the Narthex to the patio.*

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

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

## Thank You...

**ASL** ~

**Ushers** ~Lizanne Oliver and Choir Friends

**Floral** ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

**Sound** ~ Caryl Westerberg

**Zoom** ~

### 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 April, **the Presbyterian Women (PW)**,  
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.

**Sermon Theme Today** – Saul's/Paul's conversion; trusting our experience with God.

**Flowers** today are given by Sharon Knox.

**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.

Children's Church School is changing to a biweekly format; and the children will remain with Amber for the full worship hour. On Communion Sundays, they will still participate in communion, but will return to Sunday School afterwards. **Today is an exception, children will start in worship, and listen to the LACC sing a few songs.** -- *Bi-weekly Sunday School Schedule: Apr 28, May 5, 12 & 19, Jun 2. During the summer, there will be no Church School.*

On some alternate Sundays, when Sunday school is not in session, Peggy will lead the children in Choir practice.

**Special Music** - **Los Angeles Children's Chorus** is a Grammy Award-winning ensemble based in Pasadena, that provides choral music education of the highest quality to young people who represent richly diverse racial, economic, and cultural backgrounds. **Today** 50 members of LACC's Intermediate Choir will provide special music, as part of their Bay Area tour. Fred Meade, Associate Artistic Director, will lead the chorus.

There are many moving parts to this traveling tour; 50 children, plus chaperones, busses, drivers; directors; and Stone Church warmly welcomes the entire group! We are delighted to have them joining us for our service today!

**Nominating Committee Announcement** – The Nominating Committee is in the process of building a list of congregation members to consider to be nominated for the job of Elder or Deacon at Stone Church this spring. Elders and Deacons are nominated by the Committee and elected by the congregation to serve a three-year term, starting July 1.

**Elders** are members of The Session, the principal governing body of our church, responsible for the spiritual growth of members, and the mission and government of the church consisting of the pastors and elders in active service.

**Deacons** minister to those who are in need, sick, and those who may be in distress. Deacons are elected by the congregation and are ordained as officers of the church.

If you know of anyone that would be a good fit, or if you feel you are called to be an Elder or Deacon, please let the Nominating Committee know by **April 26<sup>th</sup>**. If you nominate someone you think would

like to be called (after getting their permission first), return this form to the Office or email the information to **Ruth McCreath, Chair of the Nominating Committee (rdmccreath@aol.com)**.

(Circle One)

Elder Deacon Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder Deacon Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If there are questions about the above entry may we contact you? Please provide your contact information:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Ed** (11am SA) – Join Sue Williams for *The Beatitudes In A New Light*. Twenty modern voices will give input to her remarks, including four major authors who lectured and preached at Stone Church-- Robert McAfee Brown, Marcus Borg, John Shelby Spong, and John Dominic Crossan. Others include Rowan Williams, Raymond Brown, Peter Gomes, Amy-Jill Levine, Stephen Mitchell Kenneth Bailey, and Garry Wills. This will be a fresh view of some very familiar passages. adapted from Sue's reference book **Understand the New Testament: A Chapter and Verse Handbook of Modern Voices** <https://cldup.com/pyx1Yh1tzN.pdf>

**Adult Ed – Next week (4/28)** - Kerrie Romanow, the Director of Environmental Services for the City of San José, leads the city to meet the climate goals of the Paris Accords through *Climate Smart San Jose* an ambitious, data driven climate plan to decrease San José's carbon emissions, conserve water, and improve the quality of life. Learn about recycling, changing to electric, building codes, *San Jose Clean Energy*, and more. This isn't a live presentation, but a video of her March 21<sup>st</sup> interview with Gloria Chun Hoo of the League of Women Voters. Any questions can be sent to Ms. Romanow's office; her contact info, plus other links to San Jose's programs will be handed out at the end of the presentation.

**Banner** – Hanging on the front sanctuary wall is, *The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Human-kind*, the first of the "Six Great Ends of the Church" (PC, USA), interpreted by our Liturgical Arts group. The cross of Christ (in multi-shades of blue, 2" squares), is our sal-vation, as proclaimed in the Scripture (the open book) which were inspired by the Holy Spirit (the dove). The red background is machine-quilted.

**Trail Walkers** - Hikers and walkers, mark your calendars for a visit to Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve **this coming Sat, Apr 27<sup>th</sup>**. We'll meet at 8:15 on the church patio and carpool to the trailhead, just a short drive down highway 101. We will hike a 4-mile loop trail with amazing views of the Mount Hamilton Range and farmlands below. For more info or to place yourself on the Trail Walkers email list, contact Kathy Stark at [kathystark.4@gmail.com](mailto:kathystark.4@gmail.com)

**Martin Memorial** – Wayne Martin will have a memorial here for his wife, Mercedes, **this coming Sat, April 27<sup>th</sup>** (1pm). Small reception to follow; all are invited.

**Diana Lim Memorial** will be held on May 4 (2 pm).

**STOP Human Trafficking!** Take action and stand with us as we call attention to human trafficking by standing with our signs on Lincoln Ave. Human trafficking is the recruitment, transport or transfer of persons using force, fraud or coercion to exploit them for acts of labor or sex. It is a form of modern-day slavery. If this issue speaks to you, please join us as we take our "stand" on **Mon, April 29<sup>th</sup>** (8:15 a.m.), meeting in the church office. Signs and brochures are provided. Questions? Contact Claudia Hamm ([jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com)).

**The Liturgical Arts** group has placed 20 new pew cushions on the back pew; please help yourself as you enter the sanctuary. The shorter dimension is equal to the depth of the pew seat for placement. We are grateful to two members and their spouses for donating all the materials, and the many members who sewed and stuffed the heavy upholstery-weight fabric.

**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)).

**B&F (Budget & Finance Committee)** needs your help counting Sunday's offerings. You'd be paired with a B&F member to gather the items in the collection plates; take it to the church office where it's sorted, the cash double counted & recorded; then locked in the church safe. It takes about 15 to 20 minutes each Sunday. It's a good way to see how the income we depend on is handled. If you'd be able one Sunday a month to assist with this task, contact Mel Goertz (Chair) ([melgoertz85@gmail.com](mailto:melgoertz85@gmail.com)), or Brad Tips (Vice Chair) ([tipsbradley@gmail.com](mailto:tipsbradley@gmail.com)).

**April 21 – 28, 2024**

**Sunday (4/21)**

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA  
 9:30 - 10:30am Church School - Fireside Room  
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom  
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship -SH  
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA  
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Converg. Rehearsal - SA

**Monday (4/22)**

4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH  
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA

**Tuesday (4/23)**

12:30 - 3pm Library Work - Conf.Room  
 7 - 9pm Session - Conf.Room  
 7 - 8:30pm Deacons - SH

**Wednesday (4/24)**

4:30 - 6:30pm Vivace - SH  
 7:30 - 9pm Choir Rehearsal - SH

**Thursday (4/25)**

5 - 6:30pm Vivace - SA  
 6:30 - 8pm Vivace - SH

**Friday (4/26)**

10am - 12pm Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room

**Saturday (4/27)**

8:45am - 12:15pm Trail Walk - Coyote Valley  
 9:30 - 11:30am Resounding Achord - SA  
 1 - 3pm Martin Memorial - SH/SA  
 1 - 3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Next Sunday (4/28)**

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

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

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

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim ( <a href="mailto:debcrim@pacbell.net">debcrim@pacbell.net</a> )		
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 ( <a href="mailto:marta.espinal@sbcglobal.net">marta.espinal@sbcglobal.net</a> )		
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 ( <a href="mailto:rdmccreath@aol.com">rdmccreath@aol.com</a> )		
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	
Janice Goertz Claudia Hamm Steve Nelson	Derk Johnson Don Skipwith Lizanne Oliver	

**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  
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

