



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

**April 28, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
5th 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

“This is My Father's World”

*John A. Behnke (b. 1953)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Introit

“Come all You People”

Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

Call to Worship - based on Revelation 7:9-11

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

**Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor, power and strength, be to our God
forever and ever. Amen!**

Joanne Vliet, Liturgist

***Opening Hymn #281** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2

Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Call to Confession - Matthew 22:35-39

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus a question to test him: “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Prayer of Confession

Risen One, in you our resurrection has already begun on this earth:

kindle in us the fire of your love.

Risen One, you come to transfigure our being:

kindle in us the fire of your love.

Risen One, you come to fill our hearts with peace:

kindle in us the fire of your love.

Risen One, your Spirit burns away our hopelessness and despair:

kindle in us the fire of your love.

Risen One, you come to gather us in your Body, the Church:

kindle in us the fire of your love.

O Risen Christ, we thank you for your vulnerable love, which overcame death and meets us with mercy and forgiveness, even when we fail to love ourselves and others:

kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen

Assurance of Pardon - 1 Corinthians 13:8a

Love never ends.

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

Isaiah 56: 3-5 (O.T., p. 686)

*Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say,
'The Lord will surely separate me from his people';
and do not let the eunuch say,
'I am just a dry tree.'*

For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Anthem

"Easy on the Earth"

arr. Shawn Kirchner

The Second Lesson

Acts 8: 26-38 (N.T., p. 126)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation, justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Sermon

"What To Do When Your Religion Isn't Big Enough for God"

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

"Kum Ba Yah"

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

***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

Generous God, accept, the offerings we seek to make of ourselves and our money; and help us to continually work and pray to build a world of peace, joy and freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

"For Everyone Born"

#769 Glory to God Hymnal

1
For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:
**and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!**

2
For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,
[Refrain]

3
For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
[Refrain]

4
For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
[Refrain]

5
For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
[Refrain]

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Toccata on 'Amazing Grace'"

J. Christopher Pardini (b. 1973)

*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 ~ Hannah Davis

Sound ~ Caryl Westerberg

Deacon Greeters ~ Kerry House Nelson **Zoom** ~ Gary Fritz

Ushers ~ Kathy Stark & Jodi Lax

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

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: Friday

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 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.

Sermon Theme Today – Ethiopian Eunuch story; celebrating diversity.

Flowers today are in loving memory of Mercedes Martin, Wayne Martin's wife, whose memorial was held yesterday.

Children's Choir Practice Today - Children attend worship with their parents, and will leave with Peggy later for choir practice. In addition, there are some children's activity boxes in the Narthex to use while they are in the Sanctuary.

Children's Church School and Choir is changing to a biweekly format; and the children will remain with Amber for the full worship hour when there is Church School. On Communion Sundays, they will still participate in communion, but will return to Sunday school afterwards. *Bi-weekly Sunday school or choir practice schedule: April 28 (Choir), May 5, 12 & 19, June 2. During the summer, there will be no Church School or choir practice.*

Adult Ed (11am SA) – 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 21st 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.

Next Week's Adult Ed – May 5th, Join Rev. Fred Harrell for "Who is Fred Harrell Anyway?" Hear his story from Florida to California, Campus Ministry to Presbyterian!

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" tomorrow, **April 29th** (8:15 a.m.), meeting in the church office. Signs and brochures are provided. Questions? Contact Claudia Hamm (jnchamm@gmail.com).

Visit A Library Today! - **Children's/YA Library** is reached through the church school rooms. **Adult Library**, in the Lincoln House (Office), is open during coffee hour whenever a sign is posted in the Social Hall near the back door. Find some new & exciting books!

Takeout Dinner - **Sat, May 11th** the Men's Mission & Ministry (MMM) is holding a Takeout Dinner fundraiser. The dinner (serves 4) consists of *Ribble's famous smoked BBQ short ribs, baked potatoes, coleslaw by Wong, desert by Van Den Bosch and Stone anniversary wine*. This bargain meal donation requested is \$100, and it will be delivered! **Reservations are accepted starting May 1st (8am) thru May 7th (6pm)**. Text your order to Bill Ribble (408-202-3539), starting May 1. These rib dinners sell out, so order early. Funds raised will be used for MMM Stone activities and mission partners.

The Pentecost Offering, one of the 4 PCUSA nation-wide special offerings, helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people. Forty percent of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. We will collect our special offering on Pentecost Sunday, **May 19th**.

Women's Retreat – 2 weeks ago, forty-one women from Stone Church gathered at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista and had a wonderful, serene, rainy, time together. It was a great way to get to know each other a little better, support each other, laugh, cry, and refuel! Emily Meacham will lead the committee again for next year's retreat. If you are interested in joining the planning committee, please contact emilymm@pacbell.net. The \$638 proceeds from the retreat rummage sale will be split between future retreat scholarships and [Farmworker Caravan](#).

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.

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), or Brad Tips (Vice Chair) (tipsbradley@gmail.com).

Birthday List – If you, or another family member, would like your birthday listed in the bulletin (see other side of this inset), please email the office and provide your birthdate information (office_manager@stonechurch.org). We only list children (under 18) whose parents have specifically okayed their inclusion.

Vacation Church School is **June 17th – 21st** (8:45am – Noon). Mark your calendars for this fun week of "Knights of the North Castle!" Email Amber to register (amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org). Tell you family, friends, and neighbors.

Late APRIL Birthdays - (27th) Susan Bedolla & Heather Henry; (29th) Mary Alice Collins & Jerry Keifer; (30th) Jim Hagan & Rod Thorn.

MAY Birthdays - (2nd) Nanci Eksterowicz, Kelsey McDaid; (3rd) Marshall Sandoval-Clark; (4th) Paul Kanter; (6th) Emily Meacham; (7th) Emma Brand, Chris Nilson; (8th) Lyn Johnson; (9th) Barbara Krause; (10th) Emiko Easton (11th) Glenda Bowman; (13th) Julia Kraemer; (14th) Jason Leibowitz; (15th) Kerry House-Nelson; (16th) Lionel Priedium; (18th) Derk Johnson, Ruth McCreath & Josh Stevens; (19th) Maureen Chandler; (21st) Jocelyn DeGance, Joan Helms,

Virginia Thibeaux & Rosaleen Zisch; (22nd) Leta Leggett & Kaiyo Easton; (26th) Peggy Spool; (28th) Irene Pak Lee; (30th) Catherine Othick.

May Anniversaries - Jennifer Scott-Brand and Jeff Brand (5/23/1992); Deborah Crim & Walter Hudson (5/28/1972); Rhonda & Bill Lakatos (5/29/1971)



April 28 – May 5, 2024

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

Monday (4/29)

8 - 11am Organ Practice
 8:15 - 9:15am Stand Against Human Trafficking
 4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA

Tuesday (4/30)

Wednesday (5/1)

1st Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
 8 - 11am Organ Practice
 1 - 3pm Amethyst Circle - Zoom
 3 - 5pm Stephen Min Leaders - CR
 4:30 - 6:30pm Vivace - SH
 6:30 - 9:00pm Organ Practice
 7:30 - 9pm Choir Rehearsal - SH

Thursday (5/2)

8 - 11am Organ Practice
 10 - 11am Emerald Circle - Zoom
 5 - 6:30pm Vivace - SA
 6:30 - 8pm Vivace - SH

Friday (5/3)

8 - 9:30am Organ Practice

Saturday (5/4)

9am - 12pm SJ Presbytery Meeting -
 Cornerstone Church of SV
 2 - 4pm Diana Lim Memorial

Next Sunday (5/5)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Sunday School - Fireside Room
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion - SA
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
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)		
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
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)		
<u>Class of 2024</u>		<u>Class of 2025</u>
Janice Goertz Claudia Hamm Steve Nelson		Derk Johnson Don Skipwith Lizanne Oliver

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Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate
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Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita

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Peggy Spool – Children's Choir Director

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Liliana Borda – Nursery Supervisor

Victor & Sonia Perez – Custodians

Hilleguus Faber – Memorial Coordinator

Lizanne Oliver – Wedding Coordinator

Mary Johnson - Parish Nurse

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Stephen Ministry Coordinator – Michele Smith
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