



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

June 9, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
3rd 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

“Canzona”

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
Barbara Vella, Organist

Welcome

Kathy Stark, Liturgist

Call to Worship (from Psalm 30)

We will praise you, O God, because you have delivered us.

We cried to you for help, O God, and you restored our health. You brought us back from the realm of the dead, you spared us from going down into the Pit.

Sing to God, you who love the Lord! Praise God’s holy Name! For God’s anger is fleeting, but God’s favor endures forever. Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning.

O God, you have turned our despair into dancing. You have removed the shroud of death and clothed us with joy. Therefore, how could we keep from singing? How can our hearts be silent? You are our God; we will give thanks to you forever! Amen.

***Opening Hymn #481** “Praise the Lord, God’s Glories Show”

1

*Praise the Lord, God’s glories show, Alleluia!
 Saints within God’s courts below, Alleluia!
 Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!
 All that see and share God’s love. Alleluia!*

3

*Praise the Lord, great mercies trace, Alleluia!
 Praise this providence and grace, Alleluia!
 All that God for us has done, Alleluia!
 All God sends us through the Son. Alleluia!*

2

*Earth to heaven and heaven to earth, Alleluia!
 Tell the wonders, sing God’s worth, Alleluia!
 Age to age and shore to shore, Alleluia!
 Praise God, praise forever more! Alleluia!*

Call to Confession *(Psalm 139:13-14)*

God, you created my inmost being and stitched me together in my mother's womb. For all these mysteries, I thank you— for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works— my soul knows it well.

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.

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.

Children's Sermon

Amber Biscardi, Church School Administrator

(Children leave with Amber afterwards)

We Listen To God's Word

The First Lesson *Psalm 98:1-4 (O.T., p. 551)*

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory. The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Anthem

"Et exultavit" From the Magnificat

*JS Bach (1685-1750)
Janet Souza, soprano*

The Second Lesson *Acts 10:1-36 (N.T., p. 129)*

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed

creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.' The voice said to him again, a second time, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, 'Look, three men are searching for you. Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.' So Peter went down to the men and said, 'I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?' They answered, 'Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.' So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, 'Stand up; I am only a mortal.' And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; and he said to them, 'You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?'

Cornelius replied, 'Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea." Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.'

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

Sermon

"Expanding our Spiritual Imagination"

Rev. Jonathan Gundlach

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

"O Rest in the Lord" From Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); Janet Souza, soprano

***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, 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.

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 #391**

"Take My Life"

1

*Take my life and let it be consecrated,
Lord, to thee.*

*Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.*

2

*Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.*

*Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.*

3

*Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.*

*Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.*

6. *Take my love; my Lord. I pour*

At Thy feet its treasure store.

*Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee,*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

"Ellyllon"

Hans-Andre Stamm (b. 1958)

***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

Deacon Greeters ~ Sheri Cunningham

Ushers ~ Kathleen Oliver & Chris Nilson

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

Sound ~ Steve Nelson

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

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 June, **Men's Mission & Ministry** 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 and the Social Hall. It's open each Sunday for children ages 0-3.

The Retable Floral is given by Nanci Eksterowicz, in loving memory of the wedding anniversary, 6/9/1946, of her parents, Mary Helen & Chester Stanley Eksterowicz.

Children's Church School Today - Children attend worship with their parents, and will leave with Amber after the Children's Sermon. In addition, there are some children's activity boxes in the Narthex to use while they are in the Sanctuary.

Guest Pastor - Rev. Jonathan Gundlach brings a heart for seeing scripture come alive, and faith integrated into the realities of everyday life. After a brief career in law (civil rights litigation in Chicago) and business (cafe development in south Florida), Jonathan pursued semi-nary and Reformed Church in America ordination, and served with Fred Harrell for many years at City Church San Francisco as the Executive Pastor. Jonathan lives in SF with his wife Kristen & their three children, and is working on a church-planting project (GRACE/SF) which is focused on reaching those who are giving up on traditional church models, but seeking to deepen spiritually.

Anointing ~ 2nd Sundays – Today after worship, come to the front of the Sanctuary (near the piano) for anointing from Rev. Dr. David McCreath; an opportunity for a moment of personal prayer & 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, 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.

Want to See the Newest Library Books? Visit the library in Lincoln House TODAY during coffee hour!

Youth Group Swim Party Today – 6th – 12th graders are invited to bring their smiles, towel, swim suit, sun screen (2-4 pm) at the Coleman's house--food provided. Friends are always welcome! Questions, contact Kathleen Oliver (Koliver_2002@yahoo.com, or 1-408-393-7778)

Claire Ribble is now in residential memory care at Atria Willow Glen (1660 Gaton Dr., near the Lenn Post Office) and many folks have asked about visiting her. Bill has provided some information here for those who would like to visit, and he would appreciate any comments on Claire's state of mind and/or demeanor when you visited her. She's in the Madrone building-- first parking area off Meridian on Gaton. Press the doorbell; ask for Claire and they will take you to her. There is seating in the back yard as well as an area on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs (above the front door).

Men's Book Group meets **Mon, June 17th** (7 pm) at our Stone Church Conference Room to select books for Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov. All men are welcome; come with book suggestions, or come regardless, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

Workday – We'll have a church workday **Sat, Jun 22nd** (9am-noon). There are jobs for all skill levels and yummy pastries! Sign up after church today or contact Judi Kaiser (kaiser_judith@yahoo.com, 1-408-656-4561).

Rev Fred Harrell will be on vacation **thru June 24**, and will not be checking emails or phone messages.

Congregational Meeting – Either **Sun June 23rd or 30th** (date still being decided) following worship, stay to nominate and elect Elders and Deacons (class of 2027) to serve as officers of the church for the next 3 years;

as well as members of the Nominating Committee (class of 2026). Committee annual reports will be available as well.

Kick off the Summer Season with Wonder Cotton Candy after worship **June 23rd**! Wonder Cotton Candy is owned by our church neighbors, who are generously providing this treat to the congregation. Everyone is invited!

Adult Ed – For our 2023-24 school-year season, we had 677 attendees across 22 presentations, the best attendance of the past nine years. We look forward to a new Adult Ed season (2024-25) starting on **Sept 8th** (Kick-Off Sunday!). This coming fall we have several interesting

programs, beginning with two on ethics; computer fraud and how to protect against it; and two on the environment, starting with Dr. Richard Nevle, Deputy Director, Earth Systems Program at Stanford, who's the author of "Paradise Notebook-- 90 miles Across the Sierra Nevada". Dr. Barbara Fraser from Santa Clara University, who shared with us the history of the matriarchy versus the patriarchy, is returning, and we'll of course have our traditional Choral sing during Advent.

Scholarships - PW scholarships are available for first time & returning college-bound students. Applications are in the office (PW mailbox), or contact the office for a digital copy (office_manager@stonechurch.org). Direct questions to Nanci Eksterowicz (1-408-887-2965 or nancigrace@comcast.net). **The application deadline is July 1st**. US mail applications to PW of Stone Church, 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ 95125, or send via email to Nanci.

GA Banners - The Presbyterian Church, USA's General Assembly (GA) will hold its 226th meeting in Salt Lake City (June 25-July 4). San Jose Presbytery hosted the 2008 (218th) GA meeting, and many from Stone Church were involved, so we know the huge amount of work that goes into being the host Presbytery of this bi-annual event.

The three banners on the front wall of the sanctuary were designed by Vincent Arishvara for the 2008 GA meeting. He was a seminary student in '08, and is currently the pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church on Meridian Ave.

The theme for that 218th Assembly was, "*Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God,*" The banner on the left depicts "Love Kindness," the center, "Walk Humbly with your God," and the right hand one, "Do Justice" (see the Scale). GA's 2024 theme is, "*Live into Hope,*" based on the hymn of the same name by Jane Parker Huber. Daily themes have been chosen based on verses of the hymn. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly chose the theme as an opportunity to charge the congregation after being in a space of lament and hope. We are now being charged to live into that hope.

Rosaleen Zisch, member of Stone Church, will be attending the GA meeting as a Ruling Elder Commissioner.

June 9 – 16, 2024

Sunday (6/9) **Rev. Harrell Off - till June 24**
9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom
10 - 10:30am Church School - Fireside Room
10:30 - 11am Anointing & Prayer - SA
10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
2 - 4pm Y.Grp Pool Party - Coleman's
5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SA

Monday (6/10)
9am - 3pm VCS Setup - Fireside Room
7 - 9pm Sapphire Circle - offsite

Tuesday (6/11)
9am - 3pm VCS Setup - Fireside Room
11:30am - 1pm PW Lunch Bunch - Taiwan Rest.
12:30 - 3pm Library Work - Conf.Room
7:15 - 9pm P&A - Zoom

Wednesday (6/12)
9am - 3pm VCS Setup - Fireside Room

Thursday (6/13)
9:30am - 12pm PWCT - Conf.Room

Friday (6/14)

10 - 11am
1:30 - 4pm

Flag Day

Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room
Liturgical Arts - Room 1

Saturday (6/15)

Next Sunday (6/16)

9:30 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am

Father's Day

Worship - SA & Zoom
Coffee Fellowship - SH

JUNE Birthdays - (2nd) Isabel Jaffer; (3rd) Glenn Van Den Bosch; (4th) Barbara Arata; (6th) Darrin Johnson, Jillian Ritchie; (12th) Nana oye Botchway; (13th) Matt Marcotte; (17th) Eden Lee; (12th) Julia Lohman; (19th) Rev. David McCreath; (20th) Bill Raby-Brown; (23rd) Alice Bailey, Carrie Giorgianni, Anne Towler; (26th) Bob Fraser; (27th) Brian McNelis; (29th) Stephanie Easton.

JUNE Anniversaries - Susan & Charlie Bedolla (6/11/99); Diane & Glen Van Den Bosch (6/11/77); Mary Jo & John Blazek (6/12/82); Maureen Ryan & Michael Donald (6/13/98); Mary Stone & Craig Bowers (6/15/85); Claire & Bill

Ribble (6/18/66); Alice & Brian McNelis (6/22/91); Gary & Shirley Keller (6/30/63).

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

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



STAFF DIRECTORY

The Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor
fred@stonechurch.org off through June 24

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 – Interim Church School
Administrator
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