



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

**May 12, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.  
7th 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**

*“The Gift of Love”*

*arr. John Carter  
Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor*

**Call to Worship** (from Psalm 47:5-8)

*Maureen Chandler, Liturgist*

*Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

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

*God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.*

**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to the Sovereign One, sing praises.**

*For God is the Sovereign of all the earth; sing to God a psalm of praise.*

**God reigns over the nations; God is seated on the holy throne.**

**\*Opening Hymn #150**

*“Come Christians Join to Sing”*

1

*Come, Christians, join to sing  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice.  
Alleluia! Amen!*

3

*Praise yet our Christ again,  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven’s blissful shore,  
His goodness we’ll adore,  
Singing forevermore,  
“Alleluia! Amen!”*

2

*Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend;  
To us He’ll condescend;  
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!*

## **Call to Confession** *(Isaiah 57:15)*

*For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy One, together we confess that though we sing of your love and proclaim your reign over all creation, we too often act as though you are distant and powerless. Remind us of your loving kindness and help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

*Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)*

*In Christ, we are loved and forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Silence**

### **\*The Passing of the Peace**

*The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

## **Children's Sermon**

*Amber Biscardi, Interim Church School Administrator*

## **We Listen To God's Word**

### **The First Lesson**

*Psalm 1 (O.T., p. 489)*

*Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.*

*The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

### **Anthem**

*"God Made Me!"*

*Michael Jothan*

*Stepping Stones Choir/Chancel Choir; Nathan Smith, clarinet;*

*Barbara Vella piano; Peggy Spool, Director*

### **The Second Lesson**

*Acts 17: 16-34 (N.T., p. 137)*

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbling want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.' Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.*

*Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,*

*“For we too are his offspring.”*

*Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’*

*When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

**Sermon**

*“All God's Offspring”*

*Rev. Fred Harrell*

**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**

*“Mohrentanz”*

*Tielman Susato (~1510-~1570)*

**\*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**

*Ascended One, we offer these gifts as a sign of our love, devotion, and praise. Through these, as through our praises, we acknowledge that you are the source of life and the giver of every perfect gift. In your name we pray. Amen.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**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:*

*...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.**

SANCTUS

Karl Digerness, 2012

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est!

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**\*Sharing the Bread & Cup**

**Communion Music**

**Prayer after Communion**

*Gracious God we give you thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this meal shared in the Spirit with Jesus Christ.*

**We go from here strengthened and refreshed, to speak your love and reveal your presence in the world.**

## We Go Out in God's Name

### \*Closing Hymn #151

*"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*

1  
Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for  
thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king through all  
eternity.

2  
Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands  
and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty  
glorified;  
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye at  
mysteries so bright.

3  
Crown him the Lord of peace; whose power  
a scepter sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
Absorbed in prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end; and round his  
pierced feet  
Fair flowers of Paradise extend their  
fragrance ever sweet.

4  
Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate  
of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably  
sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me; thy praise shall  
never, never fail throughout eternity.

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Postlude

*"La Bamba from Triptico Mexicano"*

*Ramón Noble (1925-99)*

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

Original bulletin art created by Willow Glen Artist **Lynden Keith Johnson** – Stained glass and Millefiori beads.

#### Thank You...

**ASL** ~ Hannah Davis

**Deacon Greeters** ~ Sheri Cunningham

**Ushers** ~ Kathy Stark

**Floral** ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

**Sound** ~ Steve Nelson

**Zoom** ~ Gary Fritz

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#### 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 May, **the Stewardship Committee**  
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.

**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.

Communion has been expanded and will be served each Sunday, with a few exceptions: June 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Communion food collection – on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month we collect food/goods for Sacred Heart.

**Sermon Theme Today** – We are all God's Offspring, Knowing this changes everything.

**Flowers** – This week Diane has prepared long stemmed roses for all. Pick one up in the Social Hall after worship.

**Children Sing** in worship today. Meet Amber on the patio or Fireside Room.

**Vacation Church School** – There is still space available, for the “Knights of the North Castle!” themed week (**June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** [8:45am – Noon]). Email Amber to register ([amber\\_biscardi@stonechurch.org](mailto:amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org)) and have your ex-tended family, friends, and neighbors sign up, too!

**Anointing ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays** – **Today** after worship, come up to the front of the Sanctuary (near the piano) for anointing from Rev. Dr. David McCreath; an opportunity for a moment of personal prayer and 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 Church, 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.

**Men's Book Group** meets **Mon, May 20<sup>th</sup>** (7 pm) at Jim Hagan's, 1431 Hamilton Way, SJ, to discuss “Elon Musk” by Walter Isaacson. All men welcome, even if you haven't read it, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

**Next Week's Adult Ed** - (11am SA) “*Don't say autistic or my head will explode.*” **May 19<sup>th</sup>**, join Dan Fowler (Board of Directors VP of Second Start Learning Disabilities Programs) as he gives an overview of what Autism is and what it is not. He will discuss how he, as a one-time non-educator, did his son such a disservice when he was younger, out of sheer ignorance, and how he has come to help him deal with his disabilities. Dan will also share how educators have evolved in their work with neurodiversity.

**Trailwalkers** - Join us on Saturday, May 25 for a moderate hike at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve. We will follow the 4.2 mile Mayfair Ranch and Longwall Canyon loop with 721 feet of elevation gain. Watch for more hikes organized by Membership and Communication on the 4th Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Kathy Stark or Leland Wong or email ([kathystark.4@gmail.com](mailto:kathystark.4@gmail.com)).

**Rev Fred Harrell** will be on vacation **May 27 – June 24**. He will be out of town, and will not be checking emails or phone messages. Pastor Fred has scheduled a slew of fantastic guest pastors to preach on those Sundays he will be away. We hope he comes back rested and ready with some great sermon material!

**Pentecost is May 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Next week** we invite everyone to **wear red, or other flame colors**, to worship on Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate the birthday of the church. Red is the color of fire, symbolizing the presence of God's Holy Spirit & the sacrifices of martyrs. It's the only Sunday for red colors in the liturgical calendar.

We will also collect the Pentecost offering that day – see insert. This nation-wide special offering 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.

**Cool Jazz, Heart-Warming Hymns** – Our treasurer, Ruthanne Martinez, invites all to a free harp & bell concert at Saratoga Federated Church, **next Sun, May 19<sup>th</sup>** (7 pm)! It's an evening of gospel, jazz, & hymns, presented by SFC musicians and friends; reception following.

**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, Monday May 20 at 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)).

**Graduate Recognition** – On **May 26<sup>th</sup>**, during worship, we will recognize our 2024 High School and College graduates. To be included (grandchildren too!), please provide name of child, name of school they are graduating from, and their next step... (name of college, training program, job position, and major if known); or if college graduate, what is their degree, and what are they doing next? Send info to the Office manager ([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org)).

**Dementia Caregiver Support Group** has been meeting twice a month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 10am), in the conference room/library, to support one another regarding the challenges of caring for a loved one with dementia. At this time, they are inviting additional members from the congregation to attend the group. You do not need to be a primary caregiver to be part of the group; if someone in your extended family or a very dear friend is experiencing serious memory loss, you may find it helpful. If you are interested in attending, please contact in person, or email to, Marsha Wadley ([marshawadley@hotmail.com](mailto:marshawadley@hotmail.com)), or Bill Ribble, ([bill@ribble.net](mailto:bill@ribble.net)).

**The Stone Church Mission Study Committee** has compiled the results of the 2024 Congregational Survey in which many of you participated. A PDF version of the 116-page document was in the Friday email.

The committee thanks the congregation for their participation. More than 47% of the 266 surveys sent out were returned, which church survey experts say is excellent! The survey provides important info, to be combined with other research and congregational outreach, that will be reflected in Stone Church's Mission Study Report, expected to be completed this summer.

**Children's Community Garden** - As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a sense of community and stewardship of the earth, the children have been working hard establishing the Children's Community Garden. We are reaching out to our congregation for support of donations of plants, planter boxes ([like this one](#)), potting soil, and stepping-stones. Our vision for this garden is to create a nurturing environment where children can learn about sustainable gardening practices while fostering a deeper connection to nature. Your donations will not only enhance the beauty and diversity of our garden (and backyard!), but will also provide valuable learning opportunities for the children in our congregation.

If you would like to contribute any of the above items, please bring them to church and leave them in the backyard. You can also contact Amber (408-835-5376) ([amber\\_biscardi@stonechurch.org](mailto:amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org)), and she will arrange for pick up.

**May 12 – 19, 2024**

**Sunday (5/12) Mother's Day**  
 8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA  
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion -  
 9:30 - 10am Church School - Fireside  
 10:30 - 11am Anointing & Prayer - SA  
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship – SH  
 11:30 am – 1 pm Nom Com - CR

**Monday (5/13) Jennifer off**  
 4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH  
 7 - 9pm Sapphire Circle - offsite

**Tuesday (5/14) Jennifer off**  
 11:30am - 1pm PW Lunch Bunch - Taiwan  
 Rest.  
 12:30 - 3pm Library Work - Conf.Room  
 1 - 2pm Insurance Review - SH  
 7:15 - 9pm P&A - Zoom

**Wednesday (5/15) Jennifer off**  
 4 - 6pm Vivace - SH  
 7:30 - 9pm Choir Rehearsal - SH

**Thursday (5/16) Jennifer off**  
 3 - 5:30pm Stephen Ministers - Conf.R

**Friday (5/17) Jennifer off**

**Saturday (5/18)**  
 10am - 12pm Pariter - SA

**Next Sunday (5/19)**  
 8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA  
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion -  
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH  
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA  
 11am - 12pm Liturgist Training - Fireside

**MAY Birthdays -** (2<sup>nd</sup>) Nanci Eksterowicz,  
 Kelsey McDaid; (3<sup>rd</sup>) Marshall Sandoval-Clark;  
 (4<sup>th</sup>) Paul Kanter; (6<sup>th</sup>) Emily Meacham; (7<sup>th</sup>)  
 Emma Brand, Chris Nilson; (8<sup>th</sup>) Lyn Johnson;  
 (9<sup>th</sup>) Barbara Krause; (10<sup>th</sup>) Emiko Easton (11<sup>th</sup>)  
 Glenda Bowman; (13<sup>th</sup>) Julia Kraemer; (14<sup>th</sup>)  
 Jason Leibowitz; (15<sup>th</sup>) Kerry House-Nelson;  
 (16<sup>th</sup>) Lionel Predium; (18<sup>th</sup>) Derk Johnson, Ruth  
 McCreath & Josh Stevens; (19<sup>th</sup>) Maureen  
 Chandler; (21<sup>st</sup>) Jocelyn DeGance, Joan Helms,  
 Virginia Thibeaux & Rosaleen Zisch; (22<sup>nd</sup>) Leta  
 Leggitt & Kaiyo Easton; (26<sup>th</sup>) Peggy Spool; (28<sup>th</sup>)  
 Irene Pak Lee; (30<sup>th</sup>) 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)

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
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
<b>The Board of Deacons</b>		
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
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
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

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**Hilleguus Faber** - Memorial Coordinator

**Lizanne Oliver** - Wedding Coordinator

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