



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

***March 9, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
1st Sunday in Lent***

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

“Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

Helmut Walcha (1907-1991); Barbara Vella, Organist

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

“What Wondrous Love Is This? (vv 1 & 2)

Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

***Call to Worship**

Maureen Chandler, Liturgist

In the wilderness, Jesus was tested—tempted by power, privilege, and self-interest.

In our own wilderness, we, too, face trials that call us away from love, justice, and truth.

Yet Jesus chose the way of humility, trust, and faithfulness, showing us a path beyond fear.

We, too, are called to resist the voices of greed, division, and despair.

Come, let us worship the God who sustains us—not with empty promises, but with the Bread of Life.

We worship the One who leads us through the wilderness and into grace. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #305** “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1.
<i>Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages
long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!</i></p> | <p>3.
<i>Let courage be our friend,
Let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!</i></p> |
| <p>2.
<i>Long years have come and gone,
And still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the
dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!</i></p> | <p>4.
<i>Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the
ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
and praise the Lord!</i></p> |

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession (based on Isaiah 55:6-7)

Seek the Eternal One, and you will surely find; call upon your Creator, for God is near. Let the corrupt abandon their ways, and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them return to God, who delights in showing mercy, let them return to our God, who is lavish with forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who come to you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly turning away from our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, peace and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon (Ephesians 2:8)

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. This is the good news.

Thanks be to God!

***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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (O.T., p. 2)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you

shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Anthem

“O Lord Throughout These 40 Days”

Walter L. Pelz
Nathan Smith, clarinet

The Second Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11 (N.T., p. 3)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

“The Wilderness of Solitude”

Rev. Fred Harrell

Prayers of the People

We Respond to the Good News

Call for the Offering

Let us now bring forward our offerings—our time, talents, and treasures—as a testament to our commitment to co-creating a world where love and justice prevail.

Offertory

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

Raymond Henry

***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**

O God, our offerings proclaim that work and worship are one, that life is undivided. Use these gifts for your Church’s ministries of reconciliation, service, and mercy. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~ Judi Kaiser, Guy Lohman, Kate Wheatley

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

"Come and Fill"

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

"Live in Charity"

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

***Closing Hymn #166** *“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”*

1
*Lord! Who throughout these forty days,
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,
And close by Thee to stay.*

3
*As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live
By Thy most holy Word.*

2
*As Thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
Oh, give us strength in Thee to fight,
In Thee to conquer sin.*

4
*And through these days of penitence,
And through Thy Passion-tide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
Jesu! with us abide.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“Tallis Theme” (3rd Mode Melody)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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

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

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

Artist's note; For my Lenten discipline, this year, I have chosen words (with backgrounds inspired by these words) which we might meditate with, concentrate on, and spend some time considering as they relate to ourselves, our church, our nation, and our world. **FAITH**

ASL Interpreter - Hannah Sullivan

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 (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 March, **Worship, Taizé**, and friends are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.

Lent 2025

- **March 4 - Ash Wednesday** - 6:30 pm Worship service
- **Weekly Taizé services** - 6:30pm
 - Tuesdays, March 11 – April 15
- **April 13 - Palm Sunday** - Easter Egg Hunt
- **April 17 - Maundy Thursday**
 - 6 pm – Soup dinner served before worship
 - 7pm – Worship service
- **April 18 - Good Friday**
 - noon - Worship service
- **April 20 - Easter**
 - 6:30am – Sunrise service
 - 9:30 am – Worship service

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.

Children's Church School – Children meet in the Fireside Room at 9:30 am (stone building on the other side of the Social Hall). Children will come to the sanctuary to participate in Communion.

Each Week, Stone Church Invites You to Share 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 server will say a few words; partake of the moistened bread; return to your seat by the side aisles.

Today the Unity Candle is at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, Salinas** (Rev. Andy Rausch). Each week the unity candle travels to a different church in the San Jose Presbytery; please pray for all God's people in this congregation.

The Retable Flowers by Janet Chiang, are placed with love to the Kromm family for their decades of dedication to providing beautiful sacred music for Stone Church.

Adult Ed – (11 am, SA) The Beatitudes series continues with Jerry Keifer presenting. Overall, this series will offer each speaker's personal understanding of the eight Beatitudes – foundational teachings by Jesus spoken to his disciples and crowds early in his ministry. Often neglected in sermons and courses of study because they are either too obvious or too confusing, the Beatitudes are neither! Come, explore some deeper understanding of these words of Jesus.

Women's Retreat – **April 4-6** is our annual retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. This year, member Alice McNelis will lead us deeper into *The Science of Compassion*. **Scholarships** are available; so please do not let the cost deter you; requests are handled discreetly.

Retreat Rates: \$320 double, \$400 Single; \$85 Saturday Only. Cash, Check, Zelle, and PayPal accepted. PayPal rates differ to include fees. **Deadline is this coming Wed, Mar 12th**. Please sign up after Worship. Contact Emily Meacham (emilymm@pacbell.net) with questions.

Weekly Lenten Taizé Services start **this Tue, Mar 11th**, and continue through Tue, Apr 15th. Explore this time of quiet, music, scripture, and prayer. Sanctuary doors open at 6:30 pm, service starts at 6:45 pm.

The Liturgical Arts group invites you to their meeting **this Fri, Mar 14th** (1:30 to 4 PM), in Room 1 downstairs. They're currently engaged in hand-sewing, including embroidery---but all kinds of creative skills are always needed. Ring the portable doorbell at the patio door for entrance.

College Age & "20 Somethings" Gathering - Join us **next Sun, Mar 16th** (11:30am). We'll meet under the pergola in the church backyard, or inside if it rains. Let's kick things off with lunch and a chance to get to know one another. We'll have a selection of banh mi sandwiches and other items to share and enjoy. RSVP by Sat 3/15 to Caryl (cjwest@acm.org).

Stone Works - February & March Donations to Mission Partners:

- **\$1,000 to Martha's Kitchen** where staff and volunteers provide over 200,000 meals a month to hungry people at no cost. Go to <https://www.marthas-kitchen.org/> to see if you'd like to volunteer or make a donation of your own.
- **\$5,000 to the Ruth Perkins Emergency Fund for Refugee Relief** – to help Jewish Family Services support 116 legal, government-vetted refugees who arrived in the US, but whose promised federal funding has been stopped. See <https://www.jfssv.org/donate-to-ruth-perkins>.
- **\$2,250 for Emergency humanitarian aid to Ukraine** through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you'd like to donate additionally on your own, go to <https://pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/how-help/act> & specify DR000156 & Ukraine.
- **\$4,500 to Presbyterian General Mission** – the first of 4 quarterly donations for our pledge. Given without restrictions, these allow for the Church's timely response when and where it is needed most to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism and foster congregational vitality.

Join Us - **Stone Works meets Tue, Apr 1st (7:00pm) on Zoom** to allocate donations to mission projects and activate congregational involvement in our community. Contact Maureen Chandler, for the link. (maureenlchandler@comcast.net).

Faith in Action – StoneWorks out in our community, join them:

- **Loaves and Fishes** – Join Stone Church volunteers who make and serve meals. Join us on Weds Mar 26 & Apr 23. Contact Maureen Chandler. (See above)
- **Immigrant Support Gathering** lead by PACT. **Sun, Mar 30th** (2-3:30pm) in the Social Hall. Sign up next week at Coffee Hour.
- **Rapid Response Network Training** for those who would like to learn to be Rapid Responders (legal observers) to actions by ICE in San Jose. Training offered **this Thu, Mar 13th** (4-6pm) by Westhope Presby. Church (Saratoga). Contact Rhonda Lakatos.

WGC Donations - You donated 450 toothbrushes, 250 tubes of toothpaste, some floss, and \$20, to Willow Glen Cares for students in need. Thank you!

Maundy Thursday Dinner - Are you a SOUP-er chef? As part of our **Apr 17th** Maundy Thursday observance, we're planning to serve a meal of soup and bread at 6 pm prior to the 7 pm service. If you'd like to cook up a big pot of soup to share with the community that evening, please contact the church office!

Library - What's new in the library? Look on the Stone Church web page under Church Life for reviews of some new books and alphabetized listings for our adult and children's libraries.

March 9 – 16, 2025

Sunday (3/9)

8:30 - 9am
9:30 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am
11am - 1pm
11am - 12pm
2:30 - 5pm
5 - 7pm

Daylight Savings Time Starts

Choir Practice - SA
Worship & Communion
Coffee Fellowship - SH
MSC Meeting - CR
Adult Ed - SA
Confirmation Class - Room 5
Youth Group - SH/K

Monday (3/10)

4 - 7:30pm
6 - 7:30pm
7 - 9pm

Vivace - SH
Vivace SA
Sapphire Circle

Tuesday (3/11)

11am - 2:30pm
11:30am - 1pm
Rest.
6:30 - 7:30pm
7:15 - 9pm
7:30 - 9pm

Library Work - CR
PW Lunch Bunch - Taiwan
Taizé Service - SA
P&A - Zoom
CE - Zoom

Wednesday (3/12)

4:30 - 6:15pm
7:30 - 9pm

Vivace - SH
Choir Practice - SH

Thursday (3/13)

9:30am - 12pm
5 - 8pm
7 - 9pm

Fred Off
PWCT - CR
Vivace - SH
M&C - Zoom

Friday (3/14)

9:30 - 11am
1:30 - 4pm

Fred Off
Caregivers' Support - CR
Liturgical Arts - Room 1

Saturday (3/15)

9am - 1:30pm
6 - 9pm

Fred Off
Garden Work - Back Yard
Game Night - SH/K

Next Sunday (3/16)

8:30 - 9am
9:30 - 10:30am
10:30 - 11am
11am - 12pm
11:30am
2:30 - 5pm

Fred Off
Choir Practice - SA
Worship & Communion -
Coffee Fellowship - SH
Adult Ed - SA
College & "20 Somethings"
Confirmation Class - Room 5

MARCH Birthdays - (2nd) Babila Mfonfu; (3rd) Joyce Summers; (4th) Kathleen O'Brien; (5th) Carol Martin; (6th) Mary Jo Blazek; (8th) Jan Keifer, Diane Van den Bosch; (10th) Lea Lawrence-Moiso; (12th) Vern Tegger; (14th) Grant Nilson; (16th) Caryl Westerberg, Jennifer Scott-Brand; (20th) Grant Balao; (24th) Fran Cole; (25th) Susan Erickson-Viitanen; (26th) Kelley Alwood; (28th); (29th) Cindy Bevan; (31st) Eric Bateman

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Jeremy Easton Jeff Mattan	Maureen Chandler Ruth McCreath Steve Nelson Stan Searing Caryl Westerberg	Judi Kaiser Jodi Lax Matthew Marcotte Marsha Wadley
The Board of Deacons		
Moderator ~ Janice Goertz (janicegoertz@gmail.com)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Gail Chaid Sheri Cunningham Janice Goertz Chris Nilson Laraine Pitcher	Neil Coleman Marta Espinal Kerry House-Nelson Karen Wessels	Mary Jo Blazek Jim Hagan Mary Ann Hudson Jenny Pichon Dorothy Rowe
Nominating Committee		
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath (rdmccreath@aol.com)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>		<u>Class of 2026</u>
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver Susan Bedolla		Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith

Donate to Stone Church



Zelle (No Fees)

OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org



PayPal (Usual Fees)

Stone Church of Willow Glen

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Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver

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