



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

**February 2, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
4th Sunday after Epiphany**

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

“Impromptu on ‘I Heard the voice of Jesus Say’” (Kingsfold)

*Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

*Whitla (b. 1934) & Holst (1874-1934)
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

***Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 19:1-4)*

Rev. Fred Harrell

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

*There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through
all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

The glory of God echoes throughout the world. Let us praise the name of the Lord.

***Opening Hymn #12** *“Immortal Invisible God Only Wise”*

1

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.*

2

*Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.*

3

*To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth
Thee.*

4

*Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
’Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!*

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession (1 John 3:11,16-18)

This is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Prayer of Confession

For the times we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty, we pray to our God:

Have mercy on us and your people.

For the times we lack courage to address the causes of systemic racism, violence and inequality, we pray to our God:

Have mercy on us and on your people.

For the times we give in to despair and resignation when confronted with the injustice of our world, we pray to our God:

Have mercy on us and on your people.

For the times we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity, we pray to our God:

Have mercy on us and on your people.

Merciful God, receive our petitions. Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world caused by injustice, indifference, selfishness and fear. Open our hearts to hear the cries of your suffering people. Support us as we seek to respond in solidarity and love.

Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon (1 John 4: 11,12b)

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.

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

Isaiah 60: 1-6 (O.T., p. 690)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Anthem

“Down to the River to Pray”
(from the film, *Brother Where art thou?*) Appalachian gospel song

arr. Sheldon Curry

Alto Vocal Trio: Judy West, Lizanne Oliver, Donna Bell
Soprano Vocal Quartet: Emily Meacham, Dorothy Rowe,
Sunny Huang, Ruth McCreath

The Second Lesson

Matthew 2:1-18 (N.T., p. 2)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

Sermon

“Go Another Route”
Co-moderator - Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Rev. Marietta Macy

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

Meditation on “Peace Like a River”

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

***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**

God of light and life, bless these gifts that we have given so that they may further your reign of peace and healing in our city and world. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~ Sheri Cunningham, Dick Kistler, Rosaleen Zisch

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 #756 "O God of Every Nation"

1
O God of every nation,
Of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us
And heal our strife-torn world.

2
From search for wealth and power
And scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower
Destruction through the night,
And blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation,
Eternal God, we pray.

3
Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all my find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
Your servants undergird.

4
Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious
And Christ shall rule victorious
Over all the world's domain.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Solemn Fanfare"

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

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**.

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 February, **Deacons** and friends
are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.

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 Watsonville Public House (Rev. Robby Olson). Each week this unity candle will travel to a different church in our Presbytery. Please pray for all God's people in this week's congregation.

Congregational Meeting – **Next Sunday**, join us immediately after worship to review the pastor's Terms of Call, and receive the 2025 budget.

Guest Pastor - Rev. Marietta Macy, MDiv (she/they) is currently the co-moderator of the Palestine Justice Net-work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She has served on the Steering Committee of PJN (formerly the Israel-Palestine Mission Network) off and on since '13. Marietta has led educational and solidarity delegations to Palestine & Israel, and has spent over a decade working in Christian Education ministries for children, youth, and adults.

Rev. Macy was first introduced to the subject of Palestine and Israel while serving as a Youth Advisory Delegate for the PC(USA) General Assembly in 2004 and has stayed connected ever since. Marietta graduated from Hanover College in '08 with BA in Theatre, and from Louisville

Presbyterian Theological Seminary in '14 with her MDiv. Having grown up on a farm in rural southern Indiana, she recognized a shared language of kinship with the land expressed by indigenous Palestinian farmers which has greatly shaped her theology of creation and our place in it.

2025 Star Gifts – Some Star Words are still available in the Sanctuary.

Library Sundays - **Today**, the adult library in Lincoln House will be open during coffee hour, so grab your coffee, and go out the back door of the Social Hall to the Lincoln House. See what's in our Library & check out whatever you'd like. It's open on the first Sunday of each month, and can also be visited during office hours M-F (9am-1pm).

Adult Ed (11 am SA) – **Baha Hilo (he/him)** is an educator, activist, and native Palestinian from Beit Sahour (near Bethlehem), who has worked with various advocacy and education groups over the years, including the Palestine Justice Network of the PCUSA. An articulate speaker, Hilo appears in the Al Jazeera documentary, "Israelism" along with other international productions. His reputation as an extraordinary educator spans the globe, and he has been invited by various international organizations, cultural institutions, and universities to lecture all over the world, from Europe to Brazil, the U.S. to Malaysia.

Hilo is a graduate of Birzeit University in Ramallah, where he earned his BA in Sociology. He put his education to use working for the United Nations Works and Relief Agency in the West Bank, as a Coordinator with the National Council of the YMCA's in Sri Lanka, and working with youth as a camp counselor with the Silver Bay Association in New York. Hilo served for six years as the Campaigns Officer for the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA and the YWCA of Palestine, where he oversaw the Olive Tree Campaign, which partners international visitors with Palestinian farmers, whose land and livelihoods are under direct threat from the Israeli occupation, to plant and harvest olive trees. In 2013 Hilo and friends launched a new initiative called "To Be There," whose mission revolves around the development and delivery of programs that educate, inform, and raise

awareness, both internationally and locally. The initiative's goal is contributing to the realization of peace, justice, equality, freedom, and democracy in Palestine. You can find out more about "To Be There" and Hilo's work at linktr.ee/bahahilo

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*. We'll widen our understanding of compassion and engage in practices that cultivate strength and joy, building resilience together. – Rates: \$320 double, \$400 Single; \$85 Saturday Only. **Sign up after worship today or email the office (OfficeManager@stonechurch.org) for the form.** Deadline is March 23rd.

Taizé Service - This coming Tue, Feb 4th, explore this time of quiet, music, scripture, and prayer. Sanctuary doors open at 6:30PM, service starts at 6:45PM

Mission Study Deadline Extended - You now have an extra week, until **Fri, Feb 7th**, to register for the Mission Study Committee's small-group listening sessions for the future of Stone Church.

Your input and participation is vital, and we don't yet have enough of it for our Mission Study Report, which will provide guidance to our Session, the next Pastor Nominating Committee, and the next pastor, about who we are, our resources and the opportunities we have and envision for following Jesus' call into our congregation's future.

Please register on our website, StoneChurch.org, at www.stonechurch.org/church-life-1/listening-sessions.

After registrations close, the committee will contact you and assign you to a group at a convenient time for you.

Youth Group – Next Sun, Feb 9th, all 6th – 12th graders are invited to Matt Marcotte's for a Super Bowl watch party! Contact Kathleen Oliver (koliver_2002@yahoo.com) for more information.

The Beatitudes Adult Ed Classes will run from **Feb 9th - Mar 23rd**. Four well-known "heretics" of our congregation will offer their understandings of the eight Beatitudes – foundational teachings by Jesus spoken to his disciples & 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."

Mel Goertz's Memorial is **Sat, Feb. 22nd** (1pm). All are invited; a small reception will follow the service.

Year End Statements were mailed and emailed last week. If you do not receive your copy within the next week, or if you have questions, please contact the office (OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org).

Sunday (2/2) 8:30 - 9am 9:30 - 10:30am Zoom 10:30 - 11am 11am - 12pm 5 - 7pm	Snow Trip - Zephyr (Day 3/3) Choir Practice - SA Worship & Communion - SA & Coffee Fellowship - SH Adult Ed - SA Chromatic Convergence - SA	7:30pm	B&G, CE, StoneWorks - Zoom
Monday (2/3) 9:30 - 11:30am 4 - 7:30pm 6 - 7:30pm 7:30pm	OMG - Conf.Room Vivace - SH Vivace – SA B&F - Zoom	Wednesday (2/5) 1 - 3pm 3 - 5pm Conf.Room 4:30 - 6:15pm 7:30 - 9pm	Amethyst Circle - Zoom Stephen Min Leaders - Vivace - SH Choir Practice - SH
Tuesday (2/4) 5 - 6:30pm 6:30 - 7:30pm 7pm	Worship Mtg - Conf.Room Taizé Service - SA M&C - Zoom	Thursday (2/6) 10 - 11am 1 - 3pm 5 - 8pm	Emerald Circle - Zoom Taize Comm Mtg - Conf.Room Vivace - SH
		Friday (2/7)	
		Saturday (2/8)	

Next Sunday (2/9)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion - SA & Zoom
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
 10:30 - 11am Congregational Meeting - SA
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
 3:30pm Youth Group - Matt Marcotte's
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Convergence - SA

FEBRUARY Birthdays - (1st) Elizabeth Sarmiento; (2nd) Ryann McManus; (3rd) Kathie Drake; (4th) Jane Martin; (7th) Steven Graham; (8th) Steve Nelson, Dawn Predium; (9th) Bonnie James; (11th) Thomas Snodgrass; (17th) Jonathan Miller; (18th) Kent Campbell, Jutta Sargent; (20th) Bill Lakatos; (23rd) Susi Pixley; (24th) Nicky Hiestand, Karen Wessels; (25th) Kate Wheatley; (26th) Justin Hiestand; (27th) Nancy Paul.

Donate to Stone Church



Zelle (No Fees)
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 Stone Church of Willow Glen

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The Elders of the Session		
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