

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

**September 1, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
15th 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

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

*Donald Busarow (1934-2011)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 63)*

Fred Oliver, Liturgist

Your steadfast love, O God, is better than life, therefore our lips will praise you.

We will bless you as long as we live.

We will lift up our hands and call on your name.

For you have been our help and in your presence we sing for joy.

***Opening Hymn #469** *“Morning Has Broken”*

*1
Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*2
Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.*

*3
Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God’s recreation of the new day!*

Call to Confession *(Psalm 34:18)*

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Prayer of Confession

God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care, our doubt of your providence, our blindness to signs of your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from you and from others and foster divisions between those you love. Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon *(from Zephaniah 3:17)*

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty one who saves. The Lord will take great delight in you, and will renew you in steadfast love; the Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

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 *Psalm 145: 1-8 (O.T., p. 581)*

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Anthem

"Beginning"

*Miriam Rowan; arr. by Pamela Hood
Judy West, soprano; Laraine Pitcher, flute*

The Second Lesson *Matthew 20:1-16 (N.T., p. 21)*

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual

daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Communion Meditation

"The Invitation to be Last"

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

"Laraine's Song"

Composed by Laraine Pitcher,

*Flute Obligato written by Miriam Rowan, arranged by Barbara Vella
Laraine Pitcher, flute; Barbara Vella, piano*

***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**

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Servers ~ Sheri Cunningham, Meredith Hurley, Judi Kaiser

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.

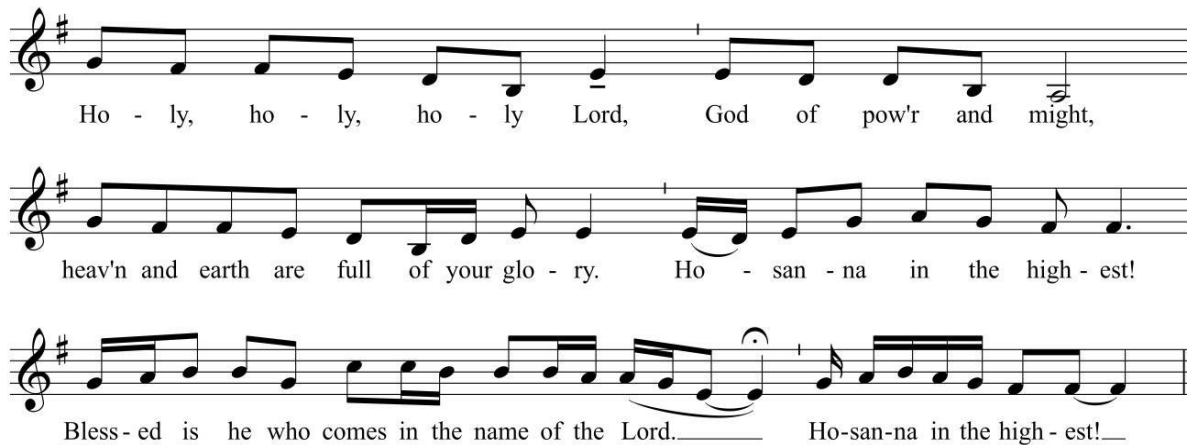
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, 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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...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

Prayer after Communion

Living Christ, thank you for this meal that nourishes our bodies and spirits. By feasting on this bread of life, your presence reminds us of our belovedness, even when broken. For you, Holy Mystery, companion us through all things, and sustain us by your love. Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

***Closing Hymn #551** “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

1
Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2
All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3
For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

4
Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“Bryn Calfaria” Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
(Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor)

*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 ~

Deacon Greeter ~ Sheri Cunningham

Ushers ~Dhar Blackwood & Michael Raby-Brown

Communion Prep ~ Diane Van Den Bosch, Derk & Mary Johnson

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

Sound ~ Steve Nelson

Zoom ~ Caryl Westerberg

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 August, Budget & Finance (B&F) 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.

Children's Church School Returns Next Week! – If your kids need something to do during worship today, there are children's activity boxes available in the Narthex.

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.

The Retable Floral celebrates the September birth-days and anniversaries of our congregation; see list on the front of this insert.

Today's Anthem was written by long-time Stone Church member, Miriam Rowan (1921-2016). She was amazing: an absurdly talented musician; a fantastically funny person; had an enormous heart; and was a choir member for 40+ years. Many will remember seeing her play the French horn and the piano at the same time! It was quite a thing to witness!

Adult Ed – (11am SA) Join our Clerk of Session, Deborah Crim, and Rev. Fred Harrell, for the first of a series of congregational discussions on Stone Church's future. Today we'll address *Challenges of an Aging Congregation and Decline in Younger Members*. Please bring your ideas and ask questions. In last spring's Congregational Survey by the Mission Study Committee, more than 60% of our members selected this as the topic they most wanted to discuss in a group setting.

First Sunday SHCS Donations – The First Sunday of the month, we collect and donate items for Sacred Heart Community Services. Today we have our food & goods collection baskets in the Narthex to gather donated items. If you missed bringing something today, consider bringing some of these items next month: pop-top cans and other packaged food items (no homemade food); gently used or new blankets and linens; hygiene items of unopened toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.; diapers (both infant and adult); unopened infant formula; new socks, new underwear for men, women and children; and gently used or new sleeping bags.

Our Monthly Taizé is **this coming Tue, Sep 3rd** (1st Tuesday of the month). Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths, a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Mantra songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment. Come explore this time of quiet, music, scripture, and prayer. Sanctuary doors open at 6:30 pm and the service is from 6:45 - 7:30 pm.

Our 2025 Pledge Campaign is just around the corner. As part of this year's Pledge Campaign, "***Glorious Past, Hopeful Future***," the Stewardship Committee would like each Stone Church member to email a five-word expression of what giving means to you to the church office this week (office_manager@stonechurch.org). It can be a five-word phrase or sentence, or an assortment of five words that best describe your feelings. If you need inspiration, here's what members of the committee have already submitted:

- Commitment to expanding God's work
- Thankfulness for my many blessings
- God's blessings returned to God
- Loving all like God does
- Giving as God does always
- Giving with hope, care, love
- Recognizing how much one has
- Here you go loving God!
- Love. Faith. Care. Hope. Grateful.
- Thankful. Blessed. Hopeful. Caring. Sharing.

The Stewardship Committee will use these submissions — anonymously — as part of a presentation during the October campaign.

Kick-Off Sunday - September 8th - Next Week

- **Choir** - The choir will be back in the choir loft in full voice. If you are interested in joining the group, email Nancy Kromm, (nkromm@aol.com)
- **Church School** begins again! Meet Amber in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m. Bring a friend!
- **Anointing & Prayer** - 2nd Sundays - 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.
- **Church BBQ Cook Out** - To kick off the new program year, stick around after worship for a kick-off Rally Day. Tables in the Social Hall will display many of the current activities in our church. Then, come to a good old-fashioned cookout, with burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and all the fixings! Join friends and neighbors. A shared meal is a great way to meet while reconnecting with people you haven't seen over the summer. Feel free to bring a dessert or side to share; and if possible please bring your own utensils and plate so we can continue our commitment to being a Green church!
- **Youth Group** - 2nd and 4th Sundays - Youth Group Kick-Off Night – Meet for an outdoor "Dive-In Movie Night." (5-7PM) at the Colemans'. Watch the movie while you're swimming or sit and watch from the sidelines. Friends are always welcome!
 - Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Fun events are planned throughout the year. RSVP Kathleen Oliver (koliver_2002@yahoo.com, 408-393-7778)

Name Tags are the first step toward creating an inclusive church, so please wear yours. Let the office know if you need one, or if any changes need to be made to your current one. Tags are stored on the fabric holder against the wall in the Narthex (office_manager@stonechurch.org).

StoneWorks thanks all who generously donated to the Willow Glen Cares school supply drive! We collected hundreds of notebooks, pens, pencils and highlighters and \$575 in financial donations! Five

groups of neighbors came by with donations as well, and it was great to make those connections with the common goal of supporting our local school kids. It was a fun event with many members hanging around after church in solidarity and encouragement, and eating treats! Thanks be to God for the continued good works of Stone Church!

Coffee Hour – Each month, before and after worship, a different committee staffs the coffee hour. They come early to make the coffee, and stay a bit after for cleanup. With some of our committees having just a few members, they often need help during their coffee-hour month. If you'd like to help please let the office know and we'll get your info to the committees. (office_manager@stonechurch.org).

Library Reminder – Please see the book carts in the Narthex and Social Hall area for exciting books for all ages. Also, visit the Chapel Library (by going through the Church school rooms) for children's and YA items, and visit the Library in the Lincoln House Conference Room during coffee hour any Sunday that you see the sign in the back of the Social Hall. The Library's also open during weekly office hours (M-F, 9 to 1). Happy reading!

September 1 – 8, 2024

Sunday (9/1)

9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA

Monday (9/2)

9:30 - 11:30am **Labor Day - Office Closed**
 7:30pm OMG - Conf.Room
 B&F - Zoom

Tuesday (9/3)

5:30 - 6:30pm Worship Mtg - Conf.Room
 6:30 - 7:30pm Taizé Service - SA
 7:30pm B&G, CE, StoneWorks - Zoom

Wednesday (9/4)

1 - 3pm Amethyst Circle - Zoom
 1 - 3pm Caregivers Group - Conf.Room
 2:30 - 4:30pm Liturgical Arts - SA
 3 - 5pm Stephen Min Leaders -
 4:30 - 6:15pm Vivace - SH

Thursday (9/5)

10 - 11am Emerald Circle - Zoom
 5 - 8pm Vivace - SH

Friday (9/6)

Saturday (9/7)

8:30am - 3pm Choir Retreat - SA/SH/K

Next Sunday (9/8)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion - SA & Zoom
 10 - 10:30am Church School - Fireside Room
 10:30 - 11am Anointing & Prayer - SA
 11am - 12pm BBQ Lunch - SH/K/Patio
 5 - 7pm Y.Group Dive-in Movie Swim
 Party -Coleman's home

SEPTEMBER Birthdays - (2nd) Mary Anne Williams; (3rd) Wynn Barnes; (5th) Sonia Perez; (8th) Darline Lohman; (9th) Tracy Rydel; (10th) Jodi Lax, Michele Smith, Samantha Blodgett, Virginia Holtz; (11th) Carl Blackwood; (12th) Jim Hamm; (16th) Mary-Stone Bowers; (17th) Katie Senigaglia; (19th) Art Holtz, Maureen Searing & Barbara Vella; ; (21st) Donna Bell; (22nd) Carol Johnson Fritz; (25th) Nancy Hopson; (29th) Mary Johnson & Michael Wheatley; (30th) Salese Kanter, Mel Goertz, & Ginger Lubecke.

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries – Jan & Jerry Keifer (9/13/1958); Sue & Doug Williams (9/14/1968); Ida & Bruce Raby (9/18/1954); Kim & Jeff Mattan (9/21/2007); Peggy & Alan Spool (9/23/1984).

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Jeremy Easton Mel Goertz 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)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
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)		
Class of 2025		Class of 2026
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver		Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor
fred@stonechurch.org

Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate
rovinrev@gmail.com

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 – Church School Administrator
(Interim)
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) – Bill Ribble
bill@ribble.net

Prayer Chain Coordinator – Mary-Ann Hudson
majm.hudson@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women – Sheri Cunningham
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Stephen Ministry Coordinator – Michele Smith
michelesmith801@comcast.net

StoneCares – Stonecares@stonechurch.org

Web Master - Jody Meacham - jtmjr@pacbell.net