



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

**February 23, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
7<sup>th</sup> 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** “Ramónce (de la Suite D’Orchestre, op. 49)” Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)  
Barbara Vella, Organist

**Welcome** Rev. Fred Harrell

**Introit** “O How Amiable” Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

**\*Call to Worship** Emily Meacham, Liturgist

*Jesus, you came to bring fire to the earth, a fire that refines and purifies.*

**Ignite within us a passion for justice and compassion.**

*You faced a baptism of suffering, embracing the cost of love.*

**Strengthen us to follow your path, even when it leads to difficult places.**

*Your message challenges the status quo, bringing division as truth confronts falsehood.*

**Grant us courage to stand for righteousness, even when it separates us from comfort.**

*You call us to discern the signs of the times, to see where your Spirit moves.*

**Open our eyes to your presence in our world, and our hearts to act in faith.**

**Refining God, kindle your transformative fire within us. Lead us boldly in your ways, that we may be instruments of your peace and justice. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn #372 “O for a World”**

1

*O for a world where everyone respects  
each other’s ways, where love is lived and  
all is done with justice and with praise.*

2

*O for a world where goods are shared and  
misery relieved, where truth is spoken,  
children spared, Equality achieved*

3

*We welcome one world family and  
struggle with each choice that opens us to  
unity and gives our vision voice.*

4

*The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
The foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn; Outcasts belong, who  
perishes will rise.*

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**Call to Confession**

*In the light of God's love, we are invited to examine our hearts and lives.*

*We acknowledge the ways we have fallen short in love, justice, and compassion. Trusting in  
God's boundless mercy, let us confess our sins together.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful and loving God, we acknowledge that we have not always lived according  
to your will. We have neglected the cries of the oppressed and ignored the needs  
of our neighbors. We have been silent in the face of injustice and have not loved  
others as you have loved us.**

**Forgive us for our apathy and complacency. Renew our hearts and minds,  
empowering us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. In the name  
of Jesus Christ, who showed us the way of love and compassion, we pray. Amen.**

**Silence**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Hear the good news: God's love is steadfast, and God's mercy is everlasting. Through Jesus  
Christ, we are forgiven and called to newness of life.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*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**

*Micah 6:6-8 (O.T., p. 866)*

*‘With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before  
him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of  
rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the  
fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does  
the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness*

**Anthem**

*“Shepherd me, Lord”*

*Gershon Kingsley (1922-2019)*

## **The Second Lesson**

*John 2: 13-25 (N.T., p. 93)*

*The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

*When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.*

## **Sermon**

*"Experiencing Jesus as Disrupter"*

*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**

*"Kum Ba yah (Come by Here)"*

*Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)*

## **\*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 grace, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. Bless them and our lives to your service, that they may reveal your glory, nurture faith, and bring healing to our city. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Communion servers ~Sheri Cunningham, Emily Meacham, Lizanne Oliver*

## **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.**

## I We Go Out in God's Name

### \*Closing Hymn

*"Establish the Work of Our Hands"*

Aaron Keyes

1:

*If You don't build it, we labor in vain,  
Without Your Spirit, we stand with no strength.  
I know my life is passing away,  
but the works of Your hands  
are what will remain.  
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us...*

**(Refrain)**

*O Lord, establish the work of our hands!  
O Lord, establish the work of our hands!*

2

*Teach us to number the length of our days,  
Pour out Your power, we'll pour out Your praise.  
Teach us to run, to finish the race for only what's  
done in love will remain.  
Let the favor of the Lord  
rest upon us. **(Refrain)***

*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - luia, al - le - luia*

*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - luia, al - le - luia (repeat  
indefinitely)*

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Postlude

*"Postlude on Joyful, Joyful"*

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**.  
*February bulletin cover images - These heart images convey Infinite Love.*

**ASL Interpreter** - Hannah Sullivan

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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 ([officemanager@stonechurch.org](mailto: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.

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**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 an unknown location somewhere in the San Jose Presbytery.** Each week this unity candle travels to a different church, and since the information was not available at print time, please pray for all God's people in our Presbytery.

**The Retable Floral** is placed in memory of Mel Goertz, a longtime member, whose memorial was held yesterday.

**A Message from our Choir Director – Nancy Kromm**

Today's music spans genres and styles.

The **Introit** anthem is by the renowned British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, which asks God to "proper our handiwork", and quotes a setting of one refrain of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" at the end, during which you are welcome to join in.

The lively **Anthem** "Shepherd Me, Lord" was written by German American Gershon Kingsley, a noted composer of EDM (electronic dance music), a pioneer of that genre and of the Moog Synthesizer. His song, "Popcorn," was the first EDM track, from 1969. Our anthem also dates from that period and Gershon said his aim was to bring classical and pop music together.

The choir joins the Easton family in today's final hymn, "Establish the work of our hands," which brings us full circle from Vaughan Williams' text, "oh prosper thou our handiwork."

**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.

Alice received her BS in Neuroscience and Behavior, and MS in Physical Therapy. Recently she's finished a year of training to be an Ambassador of Compassion through Stanford Medicine's Applied Compassion Training!

There will be small group discussions, and as always, this will be a fun relaxing weekend that includes Saturday crafts, hikes, and free time to rest and roam. Scholarships are available; so please do not let the cost deter you; requests are handled discreetly.

This retreat fills up fast. Please sign up after Worship. Registration forms also available in the office, or email [OfficeManager@stonechurch.org](mailto:OfficeManager@stonechurch.org) and ask for a form. Contact Emily Meacham ([emilymm@pacbell.net](mailto:emilymm@pacbell.net)) with questions.

Retreat Rates: \$320 double, \$400 Single; \$85 Saturday Only. Cash, Check, Zelle, and PayPal accepted. PayPal rates differ to include fees. **Deadline is March 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Adult Ed Postponed** today, so the Mission Study listening groups can meet. Adult Ed will resume next week.

**Youth Group** – **Today**, (5-7 pm) all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth (and their friends) are welcome to join us for snacks and Q&A. Members of the Mission Study Committee will join to share an overview of the purpose, goals, and process of the listening sessions. All youth participants will have a chance to answer questions about the future of Stone Church. Concurrently, in an adjacent room, the youth group leaders will have a similar Q&A session.

**Toothbrushes and Toothpaste Collection** - Willow Glen Cares provides essential personal items to low-income students at Willow Glen Middle and High Schools. Their Supply Room has seen an unprecedented number of students recently! Serving over 300 children, they are running critically low on toothpaste and toothbrushes. Let's help them restock! Drop off your donations **today** or at the church office **by this coming Fri, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**Donate Food Next Sunday** – The First Sunday of the month, we collect and donate food for Sacred Heart Community Services. **Next week** we'll have our collection baskets in the Narthex to gather donated food/goods. Consider bringing one of these: 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, and new underwear for men, women and children; and gently used or new sleeping bags.

**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, Mon, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**, (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)).

**Lent** starts later this year, beginning with **Ash Wednesday, Mar 5<sup>th</sup>** (service at 6:30 pm) thru **Easter on Apr 20<sup>th</sup>**. On March 4<sup>th</sup> we will have our regular (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday) Taizé service (6:30pm), and the following Tuesday, Mar 11<sup>th</sup> will begin our weekly Lenten Taizé services through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The Nominating Committee** is in the process this spring of building a list of Stone Church congregation members to consider to be nominated for the Elected Officer positions of Deacon or Elder. Deacons and Elders are nominated by the Committee & elected by the congregation for a 3-year term starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you feel you are called to be a Deacon or Elder, please contact a Nom Com (Nominating Committee) member (names on reverse), or email the Chair of the committee, Ruth McCreath, ([rdmccreath@aol.com](mailto:rdmccreath@aol.com)). (OR If you know of anyone that would be a good fit and would like to be called, please get their permission first, before you pass on their information to the committee.)

**Free Wood Chips** – The Lincoln House front yard landscaping continues. At this point in the transition, we have many large wood chips that will not be used, and we would like to give them away. Some have been bagged, most have not. Without disturbing the landscaping, please take what you'd like from the ground as well as the large pile in the driveway.

These wood chips have done a great job of holding off the weeds for the last couple of years but are too big and clunky for the finished landscape.

Thank you to those involved in the beautification, the office staff is thrilled to have it look more welcoming each day!

**February 23 – March 2, 2025**

**Sunday (2/23)**

8:30 - 9am                   Choir Practice - SA  
 9:30 - 10:30am           Worship & Communion  
 10:30 - 11am              Coffee Fellowship - SH  
 11am - 12:30pm          MSC Group - Fireside Room  
 11am - 12:30pm          MSC Group - Room 1  
 11am - 12:30pm          MSC Group A - Conf.Room  
 12:30 - 1:30pm          Confirmation Class - Room 5  
 5 - 7pm                     Youth Group - SH

**Monday (2/24)**

8:15 - 9:15am           Stand Against Human Traff'ing  
 Lincoln Ave  
 4 - 7:30pm               Vivace - SH  
 6 - 7:30pm               Vivace - SA

**Tuesday (2/25)**

12:30 - 3pm              Library Work - Conf.Room  
 7 - 8:30pm               Deacons - SH

**Wednesday (2/26)**

4:30 - 6:15pm          Vivace - SH  
 7:30 - 9pm               Choir Practice - SH

**Thursday (2/27)**

5 - 8pm                   Vivace - SH

**Friday (2/28)**

9:30 - 11am             Caregivers' Support – CR

**Saturday (3/1)**

**Next Sunday (3/2)**

8:30 - 9am               Choir Practice - SA  
 9:30 - 10:30am        Worship & Communion - SA &  
 Zoom  
 10:30 - 11am          Coffee Fellowship - SH  
 11am - 12pm           Adult Ed - SA

**ELECTED LEADERS**

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim ( <a href="mailto:debcrim@pacbell.net">debcrim@pacbell.net</a> )		
<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
<b>The Board of Deacons</b>		
Moderator ~ Janice Goertz ( <a href="mailto:janicegoertz@gmail.com">janicegoertz@gmail.com</a> )		
<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
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath ( <a href="mailto:rdmccreath@aol.com">rdmccreath@aol.com</a> )		
<u>Class of 2025</u>		<u>Class of 2026</u>
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver Susan Bedolla		Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith

**Late FEBRUARY Birthdays** - (23rd) Susi Pixley; (24th) Nicky Hiestand, Karen Wessels; (25th) Kate Wheatley; (26th) Justin Hiestand; (27th) Nancy Paul.

**Early 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

**MARCH Anniversaries** - (15th) Sue & Jay Evans (1969); (19th) Nancy & Gary Weiss (1967).

## Donate to Stone Church



**Zelle (No Fees)**  
[OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org](mailto:OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org)



**PayPal (Usual Fees)**  
Stone Church of Willow Glen



## STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor

**Pastor@stonechurch.org**

Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate

**rovinrev@gmail.com**

Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita

**ChoirDirector@stonechurch.org** – Nancy Kromm

**Organist@stonechurch.org** – Barbara Vella

**ChildrensMinistry@stonechurch.org** – Amber  
Biscardi

**Children’s Choir Director** – Peggy Spool

**OfficeManager@stonechurch.org** – Jennifer Scott-  
Brand

**Treasurer@stonechurch.org** – Ruthanne Martinez

**ASL Interpreter Coordinator**

[stonechurch.stephfoisy@gmail.com](mailto:stonechurch.stephfoisy@gmail.com)

Nursery Supervisor – Liliana Borda

Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez

Memorial Coordinator – Hilleguus Faber

Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver

Parish Nurse – Mary Johnson

**WebMaster@stonechurch.org** – Jody Meacham

**IT@stonechurch.org** – Nathan Smith

**MMM@stonechurch.org** – Men’s Mission & Ministry

**PrayerChain@stonechurch.org** – Mary-Ann Hudson

**PW@stonechurch.org** – Sheri Cunningham

**StephenMinistry@stonechurch.org** – Michele Smith

**StoneCares@stonechurch.org**

**SocialMedia@stonechurch.org**