



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

**March 23, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
3rd 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

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

*Christian Geist (1640-1711)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

“There is a Balm in Gilead” traditional

*arr. William Dawson
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

***Call to Worship**

Christy Wait, Liturgist

Come, all who long to see with new eyes, who seek light in the midst of shadows.

We come, drawn by the One who opens eyes and hearts, who reveals truth and grace.

In a world that often stumbles in blindness, Christ brings sight—not just to our eyes, but to our souls.

We come to be transformed, to let go of fear, to walk boldly in the light of love, to worship the God of new vision, new life, and new possibilities!

Open your hearts, open your minds, open your hands—the Light of the World is here!

We step into the light and worship the Living God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn #815** “Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

1
Give to the winds thy fears; hope, and be undismayed. God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.

2
Through waves and clouds and storms God gently clears the way. Wait patiently; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

3
Leave to God’s sovereign sway to choose and to command. So shalt thou, wondering, own God’s way, how wise, how strong God’s hand!

4
Let us in life, in death, thy steadfast truth declare, and publish with our final breath thy love and guardian care.

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession

Jesus comes to open our eyes, yet too often we choose to remain in darkness. But God’s grace is not bound by our blindness. Let us bring our whole selves before God, trusting in the One who sees us fully and loves us completely.

God of light and healing, open our eyes that we may see.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, We confess that too often we choose blindness over sight. We close our eyes to suffering, ignoring the pain of our neighbors. We look away from injustice, pretending it is not our concern. We cling to what is familiar, resisting your call to transformation.

When you open our eyes to truth, we turn away in fear. When you invite us into healing, we hesitate, uncertain of what it might cost. When you call us to see your image in every person, we struggle to let go of judgment.

Forgive us, O God. Heal our vision, that we may see as you see. Heal our hearts, that we may love as you love. Heal our lives, that we may walk as children of the light.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus came not to condemn but to bring sight to the blind and freedom to the bound. Through grace, we are seen, known, and loved.

In Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***The Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Stephen Minister Commissioning

Nanci Eksterowicz is receiving the commissioning

We Listen To God's Word

The First Lesson

Psalm 23 (O.T., p. 501)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Anthem

"Ain't Got Time to Die"

Harry Burleigh

The Second Lesson

John 9: 1-13, 17, 24-25, 32-38 (N.T., p. 102)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him.

Sermon

"The Wilderness of Sickness"

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

"Healer of My Soul"

John Michael Talbot

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**

*Almighty God, we offer you now our lives and our resources. We ask that you would use us and everything we have to build a world of peace, joy and freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Servers ~ Emily Meacham, Kathy Stark

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 #796 "We Come to You for Healing, Lord" (vv 1, 3, 5)

1
We come to you for healing, Lord
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole

5
We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.

3
You touch us through physician's skills,
through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends
who lift our lives in prayer

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Phoenix Processional"

Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

*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. **LOVE**

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.

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 [Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church - Salinas](#) (Rev. Jason Barraca). 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.

Stephen Ministry Commissioning - Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one caring ministry to people experiencing grief, divorce, loneliness, job loss, hospitalization, and many other life difficulties. Stephen Minister training takes about 50 hours over 20 sessions. Nanci Eksterowicz has finished her training and will be commissioned today to be a full-fledged Stephen Minister, ready to listen, care, encourage, and pray with others in need.

The Flowers today celebrate spring rains, beautiful flowers, and March birthdays and anniversaries.

Weekly Lenten Taizé Services continue **each Tuesday through April 15th**. Explore this time of quiet, music, scripture, and prayer. The Sanctuary doors open at 6:30 pm, service starts at 6:45 pm.

Loaves and Fishes – Join Stone Church volunteers who make and serve meals. Join us on **Weds Mar 26 & Apr 23**. Contact Maureen (maureenLchandler@comcast.net).

Immigrant Support Gathering next Sun, Mar 30th (2-3:30pm) in the Social Hall, lead by PACT (People Acting in Community Together). Learn how we can protect and support our immigrant neighbors before, during, and after ICE comes to our community. Sign up this week at Coffee Hour, or email Rhonda Lakatos (brlakatos@comcast.net).

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!

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 S-W Chair Maureen Chandler, for the link. (maureenlchandler@comcast.net).

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**. Through your gifts to this nation-wide PC(USA) effort, you serve people locally and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophes, and working with communities to overcome oppression.

Lenten Services 2025

- **Weekly Taizé services - 6:30pm**
 - Tuesdays, March 25 – 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

Alwood; (28th); (29th) Cindy Bevan; (31st) Eric Bateman

March 23 – 30, 2025

Sunday (3/23)

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
 4:30 - 6pm Confirmation Class -
 Conf.Room
 5 - 7pm Youth Group - Escape Room - offsite
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Convergence - SH

Monday (3/24)

4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA

Tuesday (3/25)

11am - 2:30pm Library Work - Conf.Room
 6:30 - 7:30pm Taizé Service - SA
 7 - 8:30pm Deacons - Conf.Room

Wednesday (3/26)

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

Thursday (3/27)

5 - 8pm Vivace - SH

Friday (3/28)

9:30 - 11am Caregivers' Support -
 Conf.Room

Saturday (3/29)

9am - 3pm Vivace Spring Sing - SH/SA

Next Sunday (3/30)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
 2 - 3:30pm Immigrant Support Gathering (PACT) - SH

 (StoneWorks)
 4:30 - 6pm Confirmation Class -
 Conf.Room

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

ELECTED LEADERS

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
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)		
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 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

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

ChildrensChoir@stonechurch.org – Peggy Spool
OfficeManager@stonechurch.org – Jennifer Scott-Brand

Treasurer@stonechurch.org – Ruthanne Martinez
ASL Interpreter Coordinator
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

