



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

**February 9, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
5th 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

“Grand Choeur”

*Charles-Alexis Chauvet (1837-71)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

“My Lord, What a Morning”

*Robert A Hobby
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

***Call to Worship**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

Anointing us to bring good news to the poor.

God sends us to proclaim release to the captives,

To restore sight to the blind.

To set at liberty those who are oppressed,

To declare the time of the Lord's favor.

Today, this scripture is fulfilled in our hearing.

Let us worship God, who calls us to justice, compassion, and freedom for all.

Charlotte Dickson, Liturgist

***Opening Hymn #634** *“To God Be the Glory”*

1.
*To God be the glory, great things He has done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

2
*Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.*

(Refrain)

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He has done.***

(Refrain)

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.

Through Christ, our Lord we pray. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon (*from Titus 3:4-5*)

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, God saved us: not because of righteous things we had done, but because of God's mercy.

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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (O.T., p. 436)

Context Note - This passage describes a significant moment in Israel's history when the people gathered to hear Ezra read and interpret the Law, leading to communal understanding, worship, and celebration.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great

God, and all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen’, lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’

Anthem

“Speak, O Lord”

arr. Mary McDonald

The Second Lesson

Luke 4:14-30 (N.T., p. 61)

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’ He said to them, ‘Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Doctor, cure yourself!” And you will say, “Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.”’ And he said, ‘Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.’ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Sermon

“Experiencing Jesus as Teacher”

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

“Deep River”

Carlton R. Young (1926-2023)

***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**

Eternal Source of Love, accept the offerings we seek to make of ourselves and our money; and help us to continually work and pray to build a world of peace, joy, and freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~ Fran & Bob Cole, Deborah Crim

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 #772** *"Live Into Hope"*

1
*Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee!*

2
*Live into hope the blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear –
A vision of our God brought near.*

3
*Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.*

4
*Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Postlude *"Peace in the Valley"* Thomas A. Dorsey, arr. Larry Shackley
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

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 Somos, Watsonville (Rev. Julie Porras-Center). 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.

The Flowers on the retable are given in memory of Linda Hagan, friend and sister in the Spirit, by Claudia Hamm.

Congregational Meeting Today - Join us immediately after worship to review the pastor's Terms of Call and receive the 2025 budget.

Youth Group – Today (3:30pm), 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.

Adult Ed – (11 am SA) Today is the first in the Beatitudes series, which will run from **Feb 9th - Mar 23rd**. Charlotte Dickson, is the first of our member “heretics” to present. Overall this series will offer their 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.

Adult Ed Feb 23rd - This is one Adult Ed Class inserted into the Beatitudes series which will step out of the heretic circle-- a discussion, with Kathleen O'Brien, on the book *Bringers of the Light* by Neale Donald Walsch. She'll discuss the definition of Light and its purpose. What does it mean to be a Bringer of the Light? How can you “add” to the light of the world? How does one deal with negativities, to transform adversity into a growth opportunity both for yourself and others?

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 month. If you have not received yours, or if you have questions, contact OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org .

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 and ask for a form. Contact Emily Meacham (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 23rd**.

The Liturgical Arts group welcomes all who enjoy working with colorful fabric: machine or hand-stitching, embroidering, etc., to enhance our worship experience. Join us on the second Friday of each month (**Feb 14th** this time) in Room 1 downstairs. We meet from 1:30 to 4 PM, but any amount of time you can give is appreciated. We'd LOVE to see you this time, on Valentine's Day!

Prayer Shawl Group is meeting one week early this month, **this coming Sat, Feb 15th** (1pm). Come if you are interested in knitting, crocheting, or come to socialize and see what others are creating. Contact Ginny Barret for details (gabbybarret@gmail.com).

Men's Book Group meets **Mon, Feb 17th** (7 pm), in the Lincoln House (office) Conference Room, to discuss "When the Clock Broke" by John Ganz. All men welcome; even if you haven't read it, come enjoy the conversation, wine & snacks.

Volunteers Needed for Weekly Communion Prep – Volunteers are needed for communion set-up each week. You don't need to commit to helping every week, consider signing up for a Sunday every so often. You will work with a knowledgeable person; will need to arrive at 8:30 am; and remain a bit after worship for cleanup. It is an easy job involving preparing the bread, juice, and wine for the table; and afterwards cleaning and put away service items. With 52 Sundays of communion to prep, there is a need for more help. Please consider volunteering. Use the link to sign-up.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FbgEseG5maK0LhM4QF-XyiCQh6sG-oG5T43z_eQu1E/edit?usp=sharing

Ushering during a Sunday morning worship service is a great way to get involved in the life of this congregation. Once a month or (or quarter) would help us spread the responsibility. It doesn't take a lot of time; no experience needed; training and support are provided. Sign up at

<https://bit.ly/StoneChurchUsher>

February 9 – 16, 2025

Sunday (2/9)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship &
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
 3:30 - 8pm Y.Grp - Sup Bowl Party - Matt Marcotte's
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Convergence - SA

Monday (2/10)

10 - 11:30am PWP - Conf.Room
 4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA
 7 - 9pm Sapphire Circle

Tuesday (2/11)

11:30am - 1pm PW Lunch
 12:30 - 3pm Library Work - Conf.Room
 7:15 - 9pm P&A - Zoom

Wednesday (2/12)

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

Thursday (2/13)

9:30am - 12pm PWCT - Conf.Room
 5 - 8pm Vivace - SH

Friday (2/14)

9:30 - 11am Valentine's Day
 Conf.Room Caregivers' Support -
 1:30 - 4pm Liturgical Arts - Room 1

Saturday (2/15)

1 - 3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
 2 - 4pm Nominating Comm -
 Conf.Room

Next Sunday (2/16)

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

No FEBRUARY Anniversaries

**Donate to
Stone
Church**

ELECTED LEADERS



Zelle (No Fees)

[OfficeManager@StoneChurch.org](https://www.stonechurch.org)



PayPal (Usual Fees)
Stone Church of Willow Glen

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (ClerkOfSession@stonechurch.org)		
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	Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith	

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
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 – Michael Wheatley
MMM@stonechurch.org – Men’s Mission & Ministry
PrayerChain@stonechurch.org – Mary-Ann Hudson
PW@stonechurch.org – Sheri Cunningham
StephenMinistry@stonechurch.org – Michele Smith
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