



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

**October 27, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
Consecration Sunday**

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

“Prière à Notre-Dame”

*Léon Boëllmann (1862-97)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor

Consecration Moment

Stewardship Committee

Introit

“Homeward Bound” (excerpt)

*Marta Keen, arr. by Jay Althouse
Choral gift from Mary and Derk Johnson (2022)
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Jason Gallardo, Substitute Director*

***Call to Worship**

Emily Meacham, Liturgist

We gather today in the presence of the One who sees us, who hears our cries and knows our struggles.

**Like Hagar in the wilderness, we come with our burdens and our longings,
seeking refuge and hope.**

*The Lord meets us in our pain, reminding us that we are never alone. In moments of despair,
God whispers promises of new life and possibility.*

**We come as a community, diverse in our journeys, united in our faith. Together,
we lift our voices, trusting in the One who guides and sustains us.**

*Let us worship the God who sees us, who calls us by name, and who invites us to share our gifts
for the good of all.*

**May our hearts be open, our spirits ready, as we celebrate the presence of the
Divine among us. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn #299 GTG** “You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

1
You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad Christ’s wonderful name.
The name all victorious of Jesus extol,
whose kingdom is glorious, who rules over all.

2
Ascended on high, almighty to save,
he still remains nigh; his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3
“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4
Then let us adore and give him his right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession (Isaiah 57:15)

For thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before You acknowledging our imperfections. Like Sarai and Abram, we have sometimes taken matters into our own hands, impatient for Your promises to unfold.

**We confess that we have acted out of fear and desperation,
looking for quick solutions rather than trusting in Your guidance.**

*In moments of doubt, we have overlooked the dignity of others,
failing to recognize that every person is created in Your image.*

**We have neglected those who are vulnerable and marginalized,
just as Hagar was mistreated and cast aside.**

*Forgive us for the times we have let our desires overshadow our compassion,
and for the ways we have perpetuated injustice in our relationships.*

**Help us to see and honor the worth of every individual, and to seek reconciliation
where there has been hurt.**

*We lay our burdens before You, trusting in Your unfailing love and mercy.
Grant us the strength to turn from our ways and to follow the path of grace.*

**In Your compassion, O God, renew our hearts and guide our steps, that we may
reflect Your love in all we do. Amen.**

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Our hope is in the Lord our God, who keeps faith with us forever. God’s mercy is everlasting! In Christ, we are loved and forgiven.

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 34: 1-8, 17-18 (O.T., p. 508)

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Anthem

"Finally Home"

David Lantz

The Second Lesson

Genesis 16: 1-16 (O.T., p. 12)

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram,

"You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."

And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived for ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife. He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram,

'May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!'

But Abram said to Sarai,

'Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please.'

Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said,

'Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?'

She said,

'I am running away from my mistress Sarai.'

The angel of the Lord said to her,

'Return to your mistress, and submit to her.'

The angel of the Lord also said to her,

'I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.'

And the angel of the Lord said to her,

'Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin.'

So she named the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are El-roi'; for she said, 'Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?' Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Sermon

"Hagar Discarded"

Rev. Fred Harrell

Prayers of the People

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

“Grateful” (from the musical “Urban Myths”)

*John Bucchino;
Christy Wait, vocalist*

*Dedication of the People and Their Gifts Hymn #606

***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

Gracious and Loving God, We dedicate these gifts to You, trusting they will bring hope, healing, and justice to those in need.

Help us to be wise stewards of what You have entrusted to us. May our offerings reflect our gratitude and commitment to uplift those who are marginalized or in pain.

Transform our gifts into instruments of grace and reconciliation, nourishing the hungry, bringing hope to the despairing, and extending love to the unloved.

In Your holy name, we pray, Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~ Fran Basso, Emily Meacham

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.

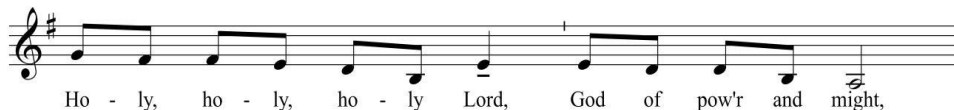
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



© 2012 Karl Digerness Music

...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**

Hymn #527 B GTG *“Eat this Bread”*

Laraine Pitcher, flute

***Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to Christ and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in Christ and you will not thirst.***

Prayer after Communion

Christ our host, we thank you for this table where all are welcomed and discover your grace: may our hearts learn to yield to your longing for us and our lives be shaped by the sanctifying Spirit. Amen.

We Go Out in God’s Name

Closing Hymn #435 GTG *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

1

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.*

2

*For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“March on the Old Hundredth Psalm Tune”

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

***Those who are able may rise in body or spirit.**

Original bulletin art created by Willow Glen Artist **Lynden Keith Johnson**.

Thank You...

ASL ~ Hannah Davis

Deacon Greeters ~ Karen Wessels

Ushers ~ Dhar Blackwood and Kathleen Oliver

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

Sound ~ Steve Nelson

Zoom ~

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 October, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) 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 – 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.

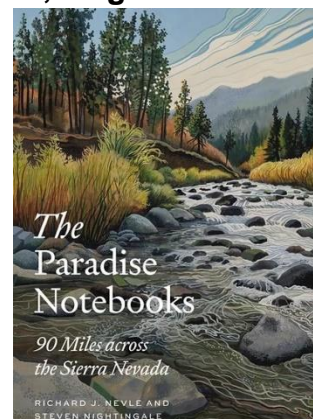
Today Is Consecration Sunday, the day we celebrate making our financial pledges to the work of the church for the coming year. Pledging today will aid the Budget Review Committee in creating our 2025 budget. If you still need one, **Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex.**

The Floral on the Retable is from Mary Stone Bowers for all who give in the world.

Jason Gallardo, choral colleague of Nancy Kromm's at Santa Clara University, will be filling in through November while Nancy is taking a personal leave of absence. Jason teaches and conducts choirs at SCU, and worked with our Chancel Choir as a clinician at the beginning of Sept-ember. Welcome Jason, we hope you enjoy your time here at Stone Church!

Adult Ed Today - (11am SA) – **Today's Adult Ed** (11am SA) **The Paradise Notebooks - A reading & conversation with the author, [Richard J. Nevle](#) - Along with special guest, singer-songwriter [Deborah Levoy](#)**

In [The Paradise Notebooks](#), Richard J. Nevle and Steven Nightingale take us across the legendary Sierra Nevada mountain range on a journey illuminated by scientific insight and incandescent poetry. From granite to aspen, to fire, to a rare, endemic species of butterfly, the essays and poems in the book explore the natural history and mystical wonder of each wild element. As they weave in vignettes from a ninety-mile backpacking trip across the range with their families, Nevle and Nightingale powerfully reconceive the Sierra Nevada as both earthly matter and transcendental offering. In a time of rapid environmental degradation, *The Paradise Notebooks* offers a way forward—a whole-minded, learned, loving attention to place that can rekindle our joyful relationship with the living world.



Richard J. Nevle is a Texas-born father, husband, teacher, naturalist, writer, and scientist with roots on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. He serves as the Deputy Director of the Earth Systems Program at Stanford University, where he is devoted to the intellectual formation of the next generation of interdisciplinary social-environmental change makers. Nevle has authored numerous scientific articles, and he is the recipient of Stanford's highest teaching honor. He lives in San José, California next to a garden full of wild things.

Award-winning singer-songwriter **Deborah Levoy's** soulful folk/jazz is fierce and fearless, dreamy and delicate, joyful and plaintive all at once. Her lyrics radiate intelligence and a poet's love for language. Levoy's soon-to-be-released fourth album, *In This Canyon*, draws on her love of wild places and her work as a climate activist, exploring all that she loves and all we stand to lose. Recorded in collaboration with sound engineer and multi-instrumentalist Doug Pohorski, *Canyon*, is a lush soundscape of vocals, guitar, piano, acoustic bass, cello, and violin. Levoy lives in San José, California.

Upcoming Adult Ed

- Nov 10 – Mission Study – Deborah Crim
- Nov 17 – Lilith – Alice Thorn
- Nov 24 – Lilith – Dr. Barb Fraser

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 re-cruitment, 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, Oct 28th** (8:15a.m.), meeting in the church office. Signs and brochures are provided. Questions? Contact Claudia Hamm (jnchamm@gmail.com).

Halloween at Stone – Last year we had our first Halloween candy handout and it was a success! The neighborhood welcomed the participation and access to the picture perfect patio (lite up and glowing). This year we want to expand on that by handing out candy/treats as well as provide a place for tired trick-or-treaters (and their parents!) to rest and use the restroom. To do this we need volunteers working in 2-hour shifts from 4-9pm. If all the slots are taken, you can still come by and help!

We still need candy/treat donations! Bring donations to the office.

This is a great opportunity for Stone Church to be present during a big community night!

To volunteer for this Thursday's Halloween night, sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E44ABA92BA7F58-51395533-stone#/>

Daylight Savings Time Ends Next Weekend - "Fall Back" (*sleep in an hour*) and still arrive at church on time!

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.

We collected 123.4 pounds of goods in October!

Enneagram Workshop – *A Journey of Self Discovery with the Enneagram* **Sat, Nov 9th** (1-4 pm). Join us for a transformative 3-hour workshop (lead by [Kirsten Oates](#)) designed to help you see yourself more clearly, moving beyond surface behaviors to explore the deeper motivations that shape your life. Using the Enneagram as a guide, we'll journey through understanding both the gifts and challenges of our personalities as they relate to living a life of love and service. Whether you are

familiar with the Enneagram or just beginning to explore, this work-shop is for anyone seeking to grow in self-awareness, compassion, and spiritual maturity.

Friends and Family are invited too! RSVP required – email the office

(office_manager@stonechurch.org) with number attending. The \$25 suggested donation can be paid in advance, or at the event – list “workshop” with payment.

Musicians - The Advent/Christmas season is just ahead. We are looking for member musicians or their friends who would like to participate in special music presentations. Vern Tegger is our prime contact point and will be helping make arrangements for ensembles, etc. Please join in making our coming season special! Contact Vern Tegger, Laraine Pitcher, or Fred Oliver.

(verntegger@yahoo.com, lpitcher@comcast.net, fredoliver@aol.com)

2025 Women’s Retreat – Save the Date – Our annual women’s retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista will be **Fri, Apr 4th – Sun Apr 6th, 2025**. The planning committee meets **today, Oct 27th** (11am) in the office conference room. If you are interesting in joining the planning committee, come to the meeting or contact Emily Meacham (emilymm@pacbell.net).

November Taizé – There will be two services in November, the usual first **Tuesday, Nov 5th** (Election Day), and another the following week on **Tues, Nov 12th**. Join us for these two contemplative services at a time when there is a need to foster understanding, compassion, and reconciliation.

Taizé History Part 2 - Taizé Services at Stone Church - During the time Rev. Bob Bowles was the pastor (1981-1994), he introduced our community to the Taizé services. It was because of his appreciation of these services that five Stone Church women, who traveled in France (Susan Bedolla, Mary Alice Collins, Claudia Hamm, Joyce Linn, and Karen Scott), chose to spend a day at Taizé and experience their prayer service. They returned home ready to buy cement blocks to recreate the wall of candlelight that they so appreciated in the Taizé community; and willing to haul bricks (from their storage in the alleyway outside the church) to the sanctuary where they would be set up for a service! Years later, they did celebrate when moving the blocks became part of the job of our wonderful custodians!

With the help of Pastors Art Mills and Rebecca Kuiken, Stone Church was able to move forward with establishing a regular Taizé service. It began in its present form at Stone Church in June 1998 when Session authorized the service for the first Tuesday of the month throughout the year, as well as every Tuesday during Advent and Lent. The services have been held continuously since that time.

Currently Stone Church Taizé Service is carrying forward the tradition started by Brother Roger Schütz during WWII. It is a service for all, in the spirit of Christian love. Many attendees at our Taize service are our Willow Glen neighbors. This is a ministry in our own neighborhood.

**YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR WILLOW GLEN NEIGHBORHOOD
IN THE TRADITION OF TAIZÉ!**

We would welcome volunteers to come early before the service and help us light candles and be a welcoming presence. If you think that you would enjoy being a Taizé committee member, or would like to help in any other way, please speak to Hilleguus Faber (Hilleguus@famfaber.org) or Mary Alice Collins (mary_alice_collins@yahoo.com) for more information.

Stone’s candlelight Taizé services are held the first Tuesday of the month. Sanctuary doors open at 6:30 pm and the service is from 6:45 - 7:30 pm. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, services are held every Tuesday. Our next Taizé service will be Tuesday, November 5th.

October 27 – November 3, 2024

Sunday (10/27)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
 11am - 12:30pm Adult Ed - SA
 11am - 12pm Womens' Re't Plan'g CR
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Convergence - SA
 5 - 7pm Y. Group - Corn Maze - Morgan Hill

Monday (10/28)

8:15 - 9:15am Stand Against Human Trafficking
 4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace SA

Tuesday (10/29)

Wednesday (10/30)

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

Thursday (10/31) Halloween

5 - 8pm Pass out Halloween Candy - Patio
 5 - 8pm Vivace - SH

Friday (11/1) First Day of American Indian Heritage Month

Saturday (11/2)

9am - 3pm Bell Cleaning - Room 3

Next Sunday (11/3)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Convergence - SA

LATE OCTOBER Birthdays - (27th) Leila Summers; (28th) Steve Ciccarello; (29th) Fred Oliver, Nancy Shearer, & Amity Bateman; (30th) Claire Ribble.

LATE OCTOBER Anniversaries - Fran Basso & Julia Kraemer (10/31/14)

NOVEMBER Birthdays - (2nd) Don Skipwith & Julie Ludwig; (8th) Ida Raby; (9th) Marsha Wadley; (10th) Michael Donald; (12th) Charlotte Dickson; (13th) Dick Kistler; (15th) Doug Williams; (16th) Cathy Marlatt; (18th) Aby Ryan & Carole Brandt; (19th) Sandi Lococo; (30th) Donna Erickson

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
 shericnngm@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry Coordinator – Michele Smith
 michelesmith801@comcast.net

StoneCares – Stonecares@stonechurch.org

Web Master - Jody Meacham - jtmjr@pacbell.net

Social Media - socialmedia@stonechurch.org

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

