



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

**January 12, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord**

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

*“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” BuxWV 223
(How Lovely Shines The Morning Star) Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

“Baptized in Water”

Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

***Call to Worship**

Lizanne Oliver, Liturgist

God anointed Christ to console the afflicted.

Come, let us worship the Lord our Comforter!

God anointed Christ to emancipate the enslaved.

Come, let us worship the Lord our liberator!

God anointed Christ to bind up the wounded.

Come, let us worship the Lord our healer!

God anointed Christ to deliver the troubled.

Come, let us worship the Lord our Savior!

***Opening Hymn #156** “Sing of God Made Manifest”

1
*Sing of God made manifest
in a child robust and blest,
to whose home in Bethlehem
where a star had guided them,
magi came and gifts unbound,
signs mysterious and profound:
myrrh and frankincense and gold
grave and God and king foretold.*

2
*Sing of God made manifest
when at Jordan John confessed,
“I should be baptized by you,
but your bidding I will do.”
Then from heaven a double sign –
dove-like Spirit, voice divine –
hailed the true Anointed One:
“This is my beloved Son.”*

3
*Sing of God made manifest
when Christ came as wedding guest
and at Cana gave a sign,
turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed
as he taught, forgave, and healed,
bringing light and life to all
who would listen to God’s call.*

4
*Sing of God made manifest
on the cloud-capped mountain’s crest,
where the law and prophets waned
so that Christ alone remained:
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace,
given as Jesus set his face
towards the waiting cross and grave,
sign of hope that God would save.*

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession (from Isaiah 43:1-5)

Listen to what the Lord says to his people, the one who created you, the one who formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Do not fear, for I am with you.

Prayer of Confession

You share your love with every people; we draw limits of race and creed. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

You immerse yourself in love of life; we hold back in fear and shame.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

You change the water into wine; we refuse to let our hearts be moved.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon (from Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7)

Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace.

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 29: 1-4 (O.T., p. 504)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Anthem

"Bathed in the Waters of Life"

Landry Carey

The Second Lesson

Mark 1: 1-11 (N.T., p. 34)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Sermon

"Stepping Into the Jordan with Jesus"

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

"O Blessed Spring"

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

***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**

***O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and revealed your loving presence with us. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our gratitude, as we seek to live out the way of Jesus in the world you have made.
Amen.***

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~ Lizanne Oliver, Sheri Cunningham, 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

**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**

Choir Communion Music

“Agua de vida/Water of Life”

Jaime Cortez

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 #630

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

1

*Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

3

*Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.*

2

*Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer
who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Wade in the Water"

arr. Barbara Harbach (b. 1946)

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**.

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 December, **Membership & Communications (M&C)** 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.

Upcoming Adult Ed – 1/19 – Join member Nina Mundi, as she shares her personal journey from Cameroon to California-- challenges, joys, and what keeps her smiling and centered in this ever-changing world. 1/26 – Member, Chris Nilson, will give an up-date on El Salvador.

Last Week's Sacred Heart Donations – An impressive start to the year: 157.6 pounds, beating last year's best monthly haul in December of 149 pounds. Last year's per month average: 102 lbs.

Mary Alice Collins' Memorial will be held at Stone **this coming Sat, Jan 18th** (2pm). All are invited; a small reception will follow the service.

Baked Goods Needed for Mary Alice's Memorial Mary Alice was an excellent baker, and we would like to honor her memory by having a lot of homemade cookies for her memorial reception **next Saturday**. If you can bring some homemade goodies or have questions, please contact Hilleguus Faber (hilleguus@famfaber.org).

Today the Unity Candle is at Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church. Our Executive Presbyter, Dr. Neal Presa, has asked all congregations of the San Jose Presbytery to include the location of the Unity Candle in their worship bulletins, and pray for the hosting congregation each week as the candle travels church-to-church through the Presbytery. Please pray for God's people in this congregation.

Get Trained to Protect Our Community, this Wed, Jan 14th (4:30-6pm). Our immigrant friends and neighbors are terrified of mass deportations. The Rapid Response Network, has asked us to recruit as many folks as possible to be trained as legal observers at ICE actions, a way to hold ICE accountable in their actions. Prior to COVID, some of our members were trained and participated.

The training will be at Urban Sanctuary. Please register at <https://bit.ly/RRNsignupSURJ>. Contact Rhonda Lakatos if you have questions. Please share this link with anyone you think might be interested.

Mission Study Update - Stone Church's Mission Study Committee will begin a series of specific information gathering exercises in January to complete work on its full Mission Study Report by 5/1.

The focal point of the report is a series of findings and recommendations intended to ensure the success of our next pastor. We are studying recommendations on pastoral expectations, our church staff structure, updating our technical capabilities and communications, our theological identification, developing a congregational capability of open-minded listening, financial transparency, the purpose of our Session, an aging congregation, young families, and rebuilding our communal life and congregational confidence.

We already have considerable data and information, so our agenda for the next three months will include convening small-group conversations for which members can register to give their input on questions about Stone's most important accomplishments and their dreams for the future, and interviewing community leaders about our neighborhood's needs so that we can discern those that Stone Church may be in a position to address.

"The Great Search" a morning retreat with John Philip Newell and Cami Twilling, **Sat, Feb 8th** (9am – 12pm) at Westhope Pres. in Saratoga. Register at www.westhope.org/events. The focus of the retreat: to inspire people towards a spirituality of intimacy with Earth rather than a spirituality of alienation from Earth, and a vision of inter-relatedness and harmony instead of religious and political division.

Per Capita: What is it? – This is Stone Church's support of our denominational church structure: San Jose Presbytery (local), Synod of the Pacific (region-al), and PC(USA) General Assembly (national).

Each local Presbyterian Church supports this structure. Our commitment, based on 300 members, is \$13,200.

Paying your Per Capita portion (**\$44.00 per member**) is a **voluntary** commitment on your part, not Presbyterian “dues”. Any of that church commitment that isn’t paid by individuals has to be paid from church funds that could have gone to other useful purposes. Your payment represents your willingness to be a participant in our shared mission to God’s service with all the other members of all the other churches of the PCUSA denomination.

Small Christmas Tree – Our Narthex Christmas Tree has seen better days and needs to be replaced. What we need is a small (4-5 ft) artificial Christmas tree, if you have one you are getting rid of, or would like to donate a new tree, please contact Hilleguus Faber (hilleguus@famfaber.org).

January 12 – 19, 2025

Sunday (1/12)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion -
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH

Monday (1/13)

4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA
 7 - 9pm Sapphire Circle

Tuesday (1/14)

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

Wednesday (1/15)

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

Thursday (1/16)

3 - 5:30pm Stephen Ministers - Conf.Room
 5 - 8pm Vivace - SH

Friday (1/17)

Saturday (1/18)

2 - 4pm Collins Memorial - SA/SH

Next Sunday (1/19)

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 Youth Group - SH/K

JANUARY Anniversaries - (1st) Brian & Danielle Gustafson (2002); (17th) Irene & Marion Pak Lee (2016); (28th) Emily & Jody Meacham (1984)

JANUARY Birthdays - (1st) Ken Henry, Matt Perdue; (3rd) Bill Blodgett; (7th) Jess Roberts; (8th) Ruthanne Martinez, Dorothy Rowe; (15th) Fran Basso, Elle Nilson; (18th) Fred Harrell; (20th) Donald Foster, Nancy Kromm, John McClure & Nancy Weiss; (21st) Ben McDaid; (22nd) Chris Costello, Jody Meacham; (23rd) Charla Bunton-Johnson; (24th) Carter

Edwards; (25th) Pauline Moore; (27th) Tim Collins; (28th) Amber Rasura, Aaron McNelis; (29th) Connie Gum, Alyssa Blodgett; (30th) John Lococo, Chris Coleman

| The Elders of the Session | | |
|--|---|--|
| Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (ClerkOfSession@stonechurch.org) | | |
| 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 |

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ChildrensMinistry@stonechurch.org – Amber Biscardi
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Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez

Memorial Coordinator – Hilleguus Faber

Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver

Parish Nurse – Mary Johnson

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Zelle (No Fees)

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