



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

**March 30, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.  
4th 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**

*“I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”*

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Fred Harrell*

**Introit**

*“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

*Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

**\*Call to Worship**

*Charlotte Dickson, Liturgist*

*Come, all who carry grief too heavy to bear alone. Come, all who long to hear, “Come out!” —  
and be unbound.*

**We come, with hearts both broken and brave, seeking the One who weeps with us  
and calls us to life.**

*Jesus stands at the tombs we’ve grown used to, at the places we’ve given up on — and says, “This  
is not the end.”*

**Even now, God is working resurrection. Even now, love is stronger than death.**  
*So unwrap what binds you. Unlearn what buries you. Walk out into the light of God’s liberating  
love.*

**We worship the One who grieves with us, calls us by name, and leads us into new  
life.**

**\*Opening Hymn #440**      “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

1

*Jesus, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high.  
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,  
till the storm of life is past.  
Safe into the haven guide.  
O receive my soul at last!*

3

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
more than all in thee I find.  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is thy name;  
I am all unrighteousness.  
False and full of sin I am;  
thou art full of truth and grace.*

2

*Other refuge have I none;  
hangs my helpless soul on thee.  
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed;  
all my help from thee I bring.  
Cover my defenseless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.*

4

*Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin.  
Let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art;  
freely let me take of thee.  
Spring thou up within my heart.  
Rise to all eternity.*

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**Call to Confession**

*God does not turn away from our doubts, our delays, or our disbelief. Christ meets us in the grief, the questions, the silence — and still calls us to life.*

*Let us bring our whole selves before God: our fear, our cynicism, our hope — and confess the ways we’ve stayed in the tomb when love was calling us out.*

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of life, we confess that we are not always ready for resurrection. We stay wrapped in what is familiar, even when it no longer gives us life. We cling to what is safe, even when You are calling us into freedom. We bury hope too quickly, forgetting that You are the God who weeps with us — and then calls us by name.**

**Forgive us, unbind us, and help us to live again. Amen.**

**Silence**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Beloved, hear this good news: Christ does not wait for us to have it all together. He comes to the tomb, speaks our name, and calls us into life — just as we are. You are not forgotten. You are not finished. You are forgiven, unbound, and set free.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*The Passing of the Peace**

*The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

**PW Lifetime Award Presentation**

*Claudia Hamm & Joyce Summers*

## We Listen to God's Word

### **The First Lesson**

*Ezekiel 37:12-14 (O.T., p. 806)*

*Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'*

### **Anthem**

*"The Gate of Heaven"*

*Craig Courtney*

### **Children's Sermon**

*Amber Biscardi, Church School Administrator*

*(Children dismissed to church school)*

### **The Second Lesson**

*John 11:1-4, 5-7, 11-29; 32-45 (N.T., p. 104)*

*Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.*

*Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'*

*When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'*

*When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'*

*Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.*

*And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'*

*Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.*

**Sermon**

*"The Wilderness of Grief"*

*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**

*"Folktune"*

*Charles Callahan (b. 1951)*

**\*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 life and liberation, you call us out of tombs of fear, scarcity, and despair into a world made new by love.*

*Take these gifts — our money, our energy, our intention — and use them to unbind what is trapped, to breathe life into what feels dry, to raise up hope where the world sees only endings.*

*May what we offer today be part of your resurrection work in the world. Amen.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**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**

*“Stay with Us”*

***Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
night will soon fall.***

***Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
light in our darkness***

*“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!***

**Prayer after Communion**

**God of life, you have met us in broken bread and poured-out love. You weep with us in our sorrow and call us into hope.**

**As we leave this table, may we carry the taste of resurrection with us—strength to roll away stones, faith to walk out of tombs, and love enough to unbind one another. In Christ, who weeps with us and calls us to life— Amen.**

**We Go Out in God’s Name**

**\*Closing Hymn #463 -** *“How Firm a Foundation” (vv. 1, 3, 5)*

*1  
How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*5  
“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to  
shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”*

*3  
“When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.*

**Moment from P&A**

*Jeff Mattan, P&A Chair*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*“Shades Mountain” (There in God’s Garden)”*

*Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)*

*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**.

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. **GRACE**

**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 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.

**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 [Gilroy Presbyterian Church](#) (Rev. Trevore VanLaar). 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.

**The Retable Floral** is placed by Carter and Michele Edwards in honor of their granddaughter Caroline's 3rd birthday. With love, ♥ Happy Birthday!



**PW Honorary Life Memberships** are a tradition begun in 1912 and contributions to this program support PW Leadership Development Grants.

Recipients are honored in recognition of faithful service in some area of the church's work, and can include moderators, teachers, leaders, officers, pastors and missionaries

The pin is made of Sterling silver and includes many symbols. The **caring, supportive hands** represent women who seek to build an inclusive, caring community of Presbyterian Women. The **leaf** represents the growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ as we nurture our faith. The **dove** indicates our work for peace in our own lives and throughout the world, which is represented by the **globe**. At the center of the design is the **cross**, by which our sins are forgiven, and we are freed to live in Christ, the center of our lives. The overall design—a **butterfly**—is a symbol of new-ness in Christ.

**Immigrant Support Gathering – Today** (2-3:30pm) in the Social Hall. Led by People Acting in Community Together (PACT). This will be an introduction to the risks that im-migrants, both legal and those without papers, face. It will share multiple ways that people of faith can protect and support our immigrant neighbors before, during and after ICE comes to our community.

**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, Mar 31<sup>st</sup>**, at 8:15 a.m., meeting in the church office. Signs and brochures are provided. Questions? Contact Claudia Hamm ([jinchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jinchamm@gmail.com)).

**Adult Ed Next Week** – Rev. Fred Harrell will give a presentation - *Introduction to Contemplative Spirituality*.

**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.



**Weekly Lenten Taizé Services** continue **each Tuesday through April 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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 **Wednesday, Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>**. For more info, contact ([maureenlchandler@comcast.net](mailto:maureenlchandler@comcast.net)).

**Join Us - StoneWorks meets this coming Tue, Apr 1<sup>st</sup> (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](mailto:maureenlchandler@comcast.net)).

**San Jose Symphonic Choir Concert**, including many Stone Church Chancel Choir members. “Sonic Genius – Bach B-Minor Mass” with San José Baroque Orchestra – **Sun, Apr 13<sup>th</sup>** (5 pm) at Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd, 95008. For discount tickets, call Derk Johnson (408) 892-2464. Event info at this website:

<https://www.sanjosesymphonicchoir.org/>

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** will be collected on **Palm Sunday, Apr 13<sup>th</sup>**. 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 (see insert).

**Maundy Thursday Dinner** - Are you a SOUP-er chef? As part of our **Apr 17<sup>th</sup>** 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!

**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.

**WG 5K** - Stone Church will be a Sponsor for the *Willow Glen 5K* – **Sat, May 10<sup>th</sup>**. There are many ways to get involved – Walk/Run, Volunteer, Cheer! See info in the Friday email and/or contact Joanne Vliet ([joanne\\_vliet@yahoo.com](mailto:joanne_vliet@yahoo.com)).



# Easter Flowers

You can be part of this Stone Church tradition with a donation to help purchase the Easter flowers that will decorate the Sanctuary, and, at the same time, honor someone special in your life.

The flowers will decorate the sanctuary through Easter, with some distributed to shut-ins on Palm Sunday; and the remainder given to the Stone Church staff after the Easter service.

Please complete this form, circle whether the flowers will be in **memory** or in **honor** of the person named and include a \$5.00 donation for the "Deacons' Fund."

Make checks payable to Stone Church (note "Deacons' Fund" or "flowers" on the memo line). Return this form and check the offering plate or leave them in the office manager's box

**by April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

The names you designate will be printed in the bulletin on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Questions, please contact Karen Wessels ([karenlynngrant@gmail.com](mailto:karenlynngrant@gmail.com), 650-391-4565) or the church office ([officemanager@stonechurch.org](mailto:officemanager@stonechurch.org), 408- 269-1593).

Your Name:

In **Memory** or In **Honor** (CIRCLE ONE) of:

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## March 30 – April 6, 2025

### **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  
 4:30 - 6pm                    (StoneWorks)  
    Confirmation Class - CR

### **Monday (3/31)**

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

### **Tuesday (4/1)**

4:30 - 6:30pm                Worship Mtg - Conf.Room  
 6:30 - 7:30pm                Taizé Service - SA  
 7:30 - 9:30pm                StoneWorks - Zoom  
 7:30pm                        B&G, CE - Zoom

### **Wednesday (4/2)**

1 - 3pm                        Amethyst Circle - Zoom  
 3 - 5pm                        Stephen Minister Leaders -  
 Conf.Room  
 4:30 - 6:15pm                Vivace - SH  
 7:30 - 9pm                    Choir Practice - SH

### **Thursday (4/3)**

10 - 11am                    Emerald Circle - Zoom  
 5 - 8pm                        Vivace - SH

### **Friday (4/4)**

Women's Retreat - SJ Bautista  
 (Office closes 11am)

### **Saturday (4/5)**

Women's Retreat - SJ Bautista

### **Next Sunday (4/6)**

9:30 - 10:30am              Women's Retreat - SJ Bautista  
 Worship & Communion - SA &  
 Zoom  
 10:30 - 11am                Coffee Fellowship - SH  
 11am - 12pm                Adult Ed - SA

### **Late MARCH Birthday - (31st) Eric Bateman**

### **APRIL Anniversary -**

Fran & Bob Lowry (4/10/1976).

**APRIL Birthdays -** (1st) Garrett Balao; (2nd) Craig Bowers; (3rd) Peter Nelson; (4th) Madison McManus; (5th) Renee Pavlovich; (8th) Lizanne Oliver, Laraine Pitcher, Joyce Linn, & Mary Burfine; (9th) Eric Olson; (10) Alison Armstrong; (12th) Janice Goertz; (15th) Rev. Marge Palmer, Pam Hood, & Rhonda Lakatos; (17th) Michele Edwards, Bob Lowry, Marcia Ludwig & Nina Mundi; (20th) Jody Evans; (21st) Sheri Cunningham.; (22nd) Allison van Digglen; (23rd) Claudia Hamm; (24th) Gary Fritz & Bill Ribble; (27th) Susan Bedolla. & Heather Henry; (28th) Sabine Nelson; (29th) Jerry Keifer; (30th) Raven Bateman, Jim Hagan & Rod Thorn.



<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
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
<b>The Board of Deacons</b>		
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
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath (rdmccreath@aol.com)		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver Susan Bedolla	Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith	

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**



## 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  
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**Organist@stonechurch.org** – Barbara Vella  
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 Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez  
 Memorial Coordinator – Hilleguus Faber  
 Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver