



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

**December 1, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
1st Sunday of Advent**

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

*“Wachet auf”
(Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying)*

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

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor

Introit

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Jason Gallardo, Substitute Director*

***Call to Worship**

“Wait for the Lord” (Taizé chant) Jacques Berthier

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!***

***Opening Hymn #360**

“Christ is Coming”

*1
Christ is coming! Let creation
from its groans and labor cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, O blessed Prince of peace.*

*3
With that blessed hope before us,
flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the song.*

*2
Earth can now but tell the story
of your bitter cross and pain;
we shall yet behold your glory,
Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.*

*4
Long your exiles have been pining
for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining,
soon the risen Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Joyful, shout the victory psalm.*

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Fran Basso & Julia Kraemer

How does a weary world hope?

By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge. (Light candle of Hope)

With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession (Psalm 130: 1-6)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for you, O Lord, my soul waits, and in your word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

In the midst of darkness, we are a people of hope waiting for the return of our Lord. God will renew the world through Jesus, who will bring an end to all unrighteousness, purify the works of human hands, and perfect our fellowship in divine love.

Christ will wipe away every tear and death shall be no more. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all creation will be filled with God's glory.

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 89:1-8 (O.T., p. 545)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: "I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."'

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord, a God feared in the council of the holy ones, great and awesome above all that are around him? O Lord God of hosts, who is as mighty as you, O Lord? Your faithfulness surrounds you.

Anthem

“There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob”

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The Second Lesson

Luke 1: 26-38 (N.T., p. 56)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

“Mary Heard the Call. Will You?”

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

*“Macht hoch die Tur”
(Fling Wide the Door)*

Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

***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**

God of peace, you gave your Son to free a lost world. You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with you. In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes.

May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of knowing you. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion servers ~Emily Meacham, Rosaleen Zisch, Lizanne Oliver

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:

Sactus

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**

Hymn #205 *“Live in Charity (Ubi caritas)”*

Laraine Pitcher, flute

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. Give us grace, 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**

“Your Peace Will Make Us One”

Audrey Assad

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of
the Lord
You are speaking truth to power, you are laying
down our swords
Replanting every vineyard til a brand new wine
is poured
Your peace will make us one*

(Refrain)
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Your peace will make us one

*I've seen you in our home fires burning with a
quiet light
You are mothering and feeding in the wee hours
of the night
Your gentle love is patient, you will never fade or
tire
Your peace will make us one*

*In the beauty of the lilies you were born across
the sea
With a glory in your bosom that is still
transfiguring
Dismantling our empires til each one of us is free*
(Refrain x2)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“The King Shall Come”

Charles W. Ore (b. 1936)

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

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

Artist Note: From far and wide we are *Bringing Christmas Home*, a tradition I began some years ago for the Advent Season, arriving in California on the fourth Sunday of Advent. People are on the move. We travel. Most of us were not born where we presently live, and we all have friends and family living elsewhere. Furthermore, technology enables us to be ever-aware of the entire world if we so choose. No matter where on Earth our loved ones reside, there is a special place for them in our hearts at Christmas-tide. **Today we are in Kiz Kulesi (Maidens' Tower), Istanbul.**

Thank You...

ASL ~ Hannah Davis

Deacon Greeters ~ Karen Wessels

Ushers ~ Kelsey & Jodi Lax

Communion Prep ~ Kate Wheatley, Jodi Lax, Derk & Mary Johnson

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

Sound ~

Zoom ~ Kelsey Lax

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, **StoneWorks** 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.

Email Address Changes – In an effort to simplify Stone Church email addresses, the underscores and names have been removed, leaving only the job title (e.g. office_manager@stonechurch.org has been changed to officemanager@stonechurch.org. It's a work in progress; see the new emails in the Staff Directory listed on the back of this page (middle column). Never fear, if you use the old address it will forward to the new address.

The Chrismon Tree – Early Christians used symbols on jewelry, utensils, and buildings to identify themselves to one another and to designate meeting places. These symbols also served to teach the faith and beliefs of the Christians, and thus were passed on through generations. "Chrismon" is a combination of two words, "Christ," and "monogram." Monogram means initials, or symbols, for a particular per-son. A Chrismon tree bears symbols conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of

Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols (cross, star, fish, circle, heart, butterfly...). Please enjoy our Chrismon Tree through Epiphany. To find out more, go on-line and search for "Chrismon Symbols."

Adult Ed Today (11am/SA) Join Jerry Kiefer for a discussion on Ethics; **12/08** - Paula Williams (see info below); **12/15** - Choral Sing; **12/22** Sue Williams – "The Christmas Story Told a Bit Differently."

On Dec 8th - [Paula Stone Williams](#) will join us to preach and lead the Adult Ed class. She's a Pastoral Counselor and internationally known speaker on gender equity and religious tolerance, who lives in Lyons, Colorado, where she serves as Mayor Pro Tem. Paula has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *TED*, *NPR*, *PBS*, and many other media outlets. Her TED talks have had over nine million views, and her memoir, *As a Woman, What I Learned About Power, Sex, and the Patriarchy After I Transitioned*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2021.



Christmas Flowers

'Tis the season when the Deacons purchase Christmas flowers for the sanctuary; and you can be part of this Stone Church tradition by honoring someone special and making a donation to help purchase the flowers.

Complete and return this form, along with a \$5.00 donation, by December 15th, to the offering plate or leave in the office manager's box. *Make checks payable to Stone Church with "Deacons' Fund" on the memo line.* The names you designate will

be printed in the bulletin on Dec. 15th and 22nd.

The flowers will decorate the sanctuary through Christmas Eve. Over the preceding weeks, the Deacons will distribute some flowers to people in the church, including members who cannot attend services, and after Christmas the remainder will go to church staff.

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

Your Name: _____

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

Amount enclosed: \$

First Sunday SHCS Donations – Today, we collect and donate items for Sacred Heart Community Services. Place donated food & goods in the Narthex collection baskets. If you missed bringing something today, consider bringing something next month. Needed items: 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, new underwear for men, women and children; and gently used or new sleeping bags

Weekly Taizé During Advent – During the upcoming busy Advent season, give yourself the gift of sparkling candlelight, beautiful music, time for silence and reflection on the meaning of the season. You are invited to our weekly Taizé prayer service on **Tuesday evenings, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th**. The prelude music begins at 6:30pm, with the service from 6:45pm - 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Wreath Making – All are invited to a “Solidarity” Christmas Wreath Workshop at Stone Church in support of [Partners Relief and Development](#). **next Sat, Dec 7th (3-5pm):** \$50 to make a wreath at the workshop; or \$40 to pick up a pre-made wreath. Donations can be made at the event. Please **Register by TODAY Sun, Dec 1st**. Scan QR code to sign-up [Or use this link](#); you cannot sign up in the office.



Advent Party – All ages are invited **Sun, Dec 15th** (2-4pm) to make Christmas crafts, Yule logs, and more. **RSVP** to <https://adventparty.rsvpify.com>

Holiday Giving! – “Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence” has invited us to participate in their Annual Winter Open House on **Sun, Dec 14th**, when they host 500 survivors and their children for a festive celebration with holiday gifts, a bounce house, carnival games, arts, crafts, and a tasty meal. Each survivor gets a gift card for presents, food and essentials; and every child receives a new book, stuffed animal, and a special visit from Santa!

Here are ways you can help: **Donate** new, small stuffed animals; or new children’s books (drop off at church Dec 1st & 8th). **OR volunteer** at Stone Church's 'Story time' on the day of the event! Two shifts available: 10:30-12:30 and 12:30-2:30pm. To sign up or ask questions, contact Maureen Chandler (maureenlchandler@comcast.net or 408-410-4619).

The Christmas Joy offering will be collected on **Sun, Dec 22nd** (see insert). This offering assists current and retired church workers in need, as well as providing support for future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Snow Trip Sign-Ups – Invite your family and friends! The snow trip is at Zephyr Point on Lake Tahoe on **Fri, Jan 31- Sun, Feb 2, 2025**. Sign-up in the Social Hall or email Amber for the details (amber_biscardi@stonechurch.org).

In-Kind Donation Receipts are due into the office next week. In-Kind donations appear on your year-end giving tax statement if you provide the office with an itemized summary, receipts, name of program or event supported, and your name. (officemanager@stonechurch.org).

Apologies if anything is missing from this insert. Email was not working well this week and some things may not have arrived.

2025 Pledge Envelopes, for those who pledge weekly or monthly and wanted envelopes, **may** be available next week.

December 1 – 8, 2024			
Sunday (12/1)	1st Sunday in Advent	3 - 5pm	Stephen Minister Leaders -
8:30 - 9am	Choir Practice - SA	Conf.Room	
9:30 - 10:30am	Worship & Communion - SA &	4:30 - 6:15pm	Vivace - SH
Zoom		5 - 6pm	Vivace Training Choirs Recital -
10:30 - 11am	Coffee Fellowship -SH	SA	
11am - 12pm	Adult Ed - SA	7:30 - 9pm	Choir Practice - SH
1 - 1:45pm	Vivace Charlie Brown - SH		
Monday (12/2)		Thursday (12/5)	
9:30 - 11:30am	OMG - Conf.Room	10 - 11am	Emerald Circle - Zoom
4 - 7:30pm	Vivace - SH	5 - 8pm	Vivace - SH
6 - 7:30pm	Vivace - SA		
7:30pm	B&F - Zoom	Friday (12/6)	
		11:30am - 1:30pm	Staff Party - Offsite
Tuesday (12/3)		Saturday (12/7)	
5:30 - 6:30pm	Worship Mtg - Conf.Room	3 - 5pm	Solidarity Wreath Making - SH
6:30 - 7:30pm	Taizé Service - SA		
7:30pm	B&G, StoneWorks - Zoom	Next Sunday (12/8)	2nd Sunday in Advent
		8:30 - 9am	Choir Practice - SA
Wednesday (12/4)		9:30 - 10:30am	Worship & Communion - SA &
1 - 3pm	Amethyst Circle - Zoom	Zoom	
		10:30 - 11am	Anointing & Prayer - SA
		10:30 - 11am	Coffee Fellowship - SH
		11am - 12pm	Adult Ed - SA

5 - 7pm
5 - 7pm

Chromatic Convergence - SA
Youth Group - SH/K

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

StoneCares@stonechurch.org

SocialMedia@stonechurch.org

December Birthdays - (4th) Judy West; (11th) Meredith Hurley; (13th) Neale Barret; (14th) Jean Raby; (16th) Mike Raby-Brown; (17th) Madeline McNelis & Olivia Van Den Bosch; (18th) Malia Clark, Kiera Gross; (23rd) Stan Searing; (26th) Ricky Rasura; (27th) Bill Coleman & Nicholas Hurley; (28th) Ginny Barret; (29th) Wendy Lord

DECEMBER Anniversaries - Alice & Rod Thorn (12/16/1961); Rosaleen & Gerry Zisch (12/16/1967); Claudia & Jim Hamm (12/18/1960); Heather & Ken Henry (12/24/1986); Martha Duke & Don Skipwith (12/27/2002)



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	

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

Children's Choir Director – Peggy Spool