



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

**September 8, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
16th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

“Festival March”

*Percy E. Fletcher (1879-1932)
Barbara Vella, Organist*

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor

Introit

“Sing to the Lord a New Song”

*Randy Newman
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 118 & Revelation 7:9-11)*

Bob Cole, Liturgist

Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God’s love endures forever.

In our anguish we cried to the LORD, and God answered by setting us free.

The LORD is our strength and our song; God has become our salvation.

We will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

For salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

**Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor, power and strength, be to our God
forever and ever. Amen!**

***Opening Hymn #464** “*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*”

1
*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.*

2
*All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.*

3
*Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.*

Call to Confession (from 1 John 4:18-19)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear... We love because he first loved us.

Prayer of Confession

God of Love, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our possessions and our privilege, and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit.

Forgive us, we pray. Lead us in the way of Jesus that we may serve you faithfully. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon (1 John 4:9)

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

***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 139: 1-18 (O.T., p. 577)

O God, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O God, know it altogether. You encompass me behind and before and lay your hand upon me, so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go then from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there your hand shall lead me, your

right hand hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me turn to night,' Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, my soul knows well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; already in your book were all my members written, As day by day they were fashioned when as yet there was none of them.

Anthem

"With a Voice of Singing"

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1: 3-14 (N. T., p. 192)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon

"The Hidden Design of God"

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.

Choral Offertory

"How Can I Keep from Singing?"

Robert Lowry (1826 – 1899)

***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 extravagant mercy, with hands outstretched you have poured out wonder and pleasure and delight, goodness and beauty and bounty. So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all that is evil and ugly and impoverished, trivial and wretched and tyrannical, in San Jose, our world and in ourselves, that all may know the healing of your new kingdom. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion server ~ Jim Hagan

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est!

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...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

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,

In this sacred meal, we are reminded of your grace and love. May it inspire us to seek justice, welcome the marginalized, and care for the earth and one another. Strengthen us to live in your truth and reflect your inclusive love.

Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

*Closing Hymn #391 "Take My Life"

1
Take my life and let it be consecrated,
Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

2
Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

3
Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4
Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I with-hold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Again, I Say Rejoice"
(Philippians 4:4)

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

*Feel free to depart quietly. Please be mindful of those enjoying the postlude.
Please exit thru the back doors, thru the Narthex to the patio.*

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

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

Artist Note: Welcome back to the Chancel Choir of Stone Church of Willow Glen. This image represents the many faceted and multi-colored aspects of the music we offer.

Thank You...

ASL ~

Deacon Greeter ~ Marta Espinal

Ushers ~ Dhar Blackwood & Ann Pierce

Communion Set-up ~ Diane, Derk and Mary

Floral ~ Diane Van Den Bosch

Sound ~ Brissa Lake

Zoom ~ Cole Miller

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 August, Budget & Finance (B&F) 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 (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.

The Retable Floral is dedicated in memory of the life and times of Rev. George Erickson.

Today's Choral Selections all focus on the joy of raising our voices in song. Whether you sing in our choir, in the congregational hymns, or in the shower, your voice is uniquely yours, and using it in worship is a joyful and meaningful activity. I invite you to sing with us in the choir this year: singing is healthful, enjoyable, enriching, and meditative. With all these good things--as our offertory anthem says--how can you keep from singing?

If you are an enthusiastic singer, or a novice, and want to join a vibrant church choir, you're invited to come sing choral masterworks by composers such as Handel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Lauridsen, Fauré, Rutter, and other contemporary sacred music composers. Our choir director is Nancy Wait Kromm—Associate Professor of Music at Santa Clara University, soprano performer, and a private voice instructor. Our choir offers a rewarding musical experience.) If you're interested, contact Nancy, (nkromm@scu.edu).

Anointing & Prayer – (2nd Sundays) - After worship, come to the front of the Sanctuary (near the piano) for anointing from Rev. Dr. David McCreath; an opportunity for a moment of personal prayer and anointing.

Church BBQ Cook Out / Rally Day – Everyone is invited after worship to kick off the new program year with a BBQ/Committee Rally Day! Tables in the Social Hall will display many of our current activities, as well as committee information. See how you might be plugged into the life of the church. Afterwards join us for a good old-fashioned cookout, with burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and all the fixings! All are invited; there is always plenty of food to share!

Youth Group Kick-Off Night – (2nd and 4th Sundays) - Tonight, meet for an outdoor “Dive-In Movie Night.” (6:30-8:30pm) at the Colemans’ (Watch the movie while you're swimming or sit and watch from the sidelines. Friends are always welcome! Contact Kathleen Oliver (koliver_2002@yahoo.com, 408-393-7778) for more information about this year's activities!

Name Tags are the first step toward creating an inclusive church, so please wear yours. Let the office know (office_manager@stonechurch.org) if you need one, or if any changes need to be made to your current tag. Tags are stored in the Narthex wall on a fabric holder.

Liturgical Arts Invitation - Many hands are needed for the interesting projects of the Liturgical Arts group. If you enjoy sewing, cutting fabric and sometimes paper, as well as fellowship, join the group **this coming Fri, Sep 13th** (1:30 to 4 PM, or any part of that time) in Room 1, down-stairs. Ring the doorbell near the main patio door.

A Season of Peace - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) designates Sep 8th - Oct 6th (World Communion Sunday) as “A Season of Peace.” The Liturgical Arts group will recognize this season with displays of paper cranes. The mobile of colorful cranes honor the diversity of our culture which can nevertheless

come together to make peace; and the traditional white cranes on the front wall of the Sanctuary remember the twelve year old Sadako Sasaki of Hiroshima, who famously completed her goal of folding 1000 “peace cranes” before dying of leukemia in 1955.

Men’s Book Group meets **Mon, Sep 16th** (7 pm) at 1699 Curtner Ave, SJ, to discuss “God Bless Benedict Arnold” by Jack Kelly. All men are welcome; even if you haven’t read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

Upcoming Adult Ed

Next Week - Sunday, September 15th (11am SA) - *Social Media* – We’ll explore the world of social media, including Stone Church's social media presence; how to keep yourself safe when using social media, and the Internet; and your privacy rights on the Internet and elsewhere, led by Matt Marcotte, who works in the electronic privacy space.

In Two Weeks – Sunday, September 22nd (11am SA) - *Artificial Intelligence* is perhaps the most important technology of our generation. It is already changing the way we interact with each other on a grand scale. But AI comes with important ethical challenges including how we think about it in our culture. Please join Gary Fritz as we start an ethical exploration of AI and what it means.

Bob Cole has curated this fall’s Adult Ed program with a broad range of topics including religion, health, technology, politics, and more. Join each week in-person or on Zoom.

Coffee Hour – Each month, before and after worship, a different committee staffs the coffee hour. They come early to make the coffee, and stay a bit after for cleanup. With some of our committees having just a few members, they often need help during their coffee-hour month. If you’d like to help please let the office know, and we’ll get your info to them. (office_manager@stonechurch.org).

Roycott Rental – Thank you to all who donated to help reduce the Roycott Rental deficit. As usual, your generosity has cleared the deficit.

StoneWorks promote, encourage, and support the congregation's mission activity and/or that of its committees. Their latest activity/donations are:

- Stone Church and Los Gatos Presbyterian Church submitted a SJ Presbytery Mission & Outreach Project Grant proposal for \$6000 to help remodel spaces for Lifted Spirits, the respite day center for vulnerable women at Trinity Episcopal Church.
- Donated \$1000 to Front Door Communities for the Lifted Spirits remodel. Read more and donate if you wish at www.fdcsj.org/ One client of Lifted Spirits has said, “We can relax, no fear; it's like heaven.”
- The [Willow Glen Cares](#) School Supply drive was a huge success! Hundreds of notebooks, pens and other supplies were collected from members and five neighbor families who stopped by. In addition, \$3,175 was collected to help the organization support students with supplies and dignity.
- [Loaves and Fishes](#) - On Aug 28th and 29th, four volunteers packaged and served meals Join us for the next meal packaging opportunity **Wed, Sep 25th** (2-4:30 pm). Contact Maureen Chandler for info. (maureenlchandler@comcast.net)

September 8 – 15, 2024

Sunday (9/8)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion -
10 - 10:30am Church School - Fireside Room
10:30 - 11am Anointing & Prayer - SA
11am - 12pm BBQ Lunch - SH/K/Patio
6:30-8:30pm YG Dive-in Movie/Swim -

Monday (9/9)

4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA
7 - 9pm M&C - Conf.Room
7 - 9pm Sapphire Circle - Searings
7 - 7:30pm Vivace Parent Mtg - FR

Tuesday (9/10)

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

Wednesday (9/11)

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

Thursday (9/12)

Jennifer @ APA Conference
9:30am - 12pm PWCT - Conf.Room
5 - 8pm Vivace - SH
6:30 - 7pm Vivace Parent Mtg - FR

Friday (9/13)

Jennifer @ APA Conference
10 - 11am Caregivers' Support - Conf.Room
1:30 - 4pm Liturgical Arts - Room 1

Saturday (9/14)

Next Sunday (9/15)

8:30 - 9am Choir Practice - SA
9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion
10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH
11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
4 - 7pm Chromatic Converg. - SA

SEPTEMBER Birthdays - (2nd) Mary Anne Williams; (3rd) Wynn Barnes; (5th) Sonia Perez; (8th) Darline Lohman; (9th) Tracy Rydel; (10th) Jodi Lax, Michele Smith, Samantha Blodgett; (11th) Carl Blackwood; (12th) Jim Hamm; (16th) Mary-Stone Bowers; (17th) Katie Senigaglia; (19th) Art Holtz, Maureen Searing & Barbara Vella; (20th) Virginia Holtz; (21st) Donna Bell; (22nd) Carol Johnson Fritz; (25th) Nancy Hopson; (29th) Mary Johnson & Michael Wheatley; (30th) Salese Kanter, Mel Goertz, & Ginger Lubecke.

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries – Jan & Jerry Keifer (9/13/1958); Sue & Doug Williams (9/14/1968); Ida & Bruce Raby (9/18/1954); Kim & Jeff Mattan (9/21/2007); Peggy & Alan Spool (9/23/1984).

ELECTED LEADERS

The Elders of the Session		
Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
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)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Gail Chaid Sheri Cunningham Janice Goertz Chris Nilson Laraine Pitcher	Neil Coleman Marta Espinal Kery House-Nelson Karen Wessels	Mary Jo Blazek Jim Hagan Mary Ann Hudson Jenny Pichon Dorothy Rowe
Nominating Committee		
Chair ~ Ruth McCreath (rdmccreath@aol.com)		
<u>Class of 2025</u>		<u>Class of 2026</u>
Derk Johnson Lizanne Oliver		Jim Hagan Guy Lohman Michele Smith

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
shericnngnm@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry Coordinator – Michele Smith
michelesmith801@comcast.net

StoneCares – Stonecares@stonechurch.org

Web Master - Jody Meacham - jtmjr@pacbell.net