



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

**March 1, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.  
2nd Sunday in Lent**

*No matter who you are, where you've been, or what you believe,  
you are welcome here.*

**Prelude**

*"Lord Jesus Christ, Turn Thou to Us"*

*Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748); Barbara Vella, Organist*

**Welcome**

*Rev. Fred Harrell, Transitional Pastor*

**Introit**

*"I To the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes"*

*Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

**\*Call to Worship** *Aron Tillema, Liturgist*

*We come in the daylight and in the night.*

**We come with questions, doubts, and quiet longing.**

*Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

**who made heaven and earth.**

*The One who neither slumbers nor sleeps watches over us.*

**The One who loves the world calls us to be born from above.**

*Let us worship the God who meets us in the dark and leads us into wider hope.*

**\*Opening Hymn #463** *"How Firm a Foundation" (vv. 1, 2, 4, 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?*

*2  
"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to  
stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*4  
"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall  
lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*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."*

## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **Call to Confession**

*Jesus told Nicodemus that new life begins not with control, but with trust. Yet we cling to certainty. We grasp for proof. We try to manage what can only be received as gift.*

*In trust that God keeps us and does not shame us, let us confess our sin.*

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, We confess that we prefer the safety of what we know to the mystery of being born anew.**

**We cling to control rather than surrender to your Spirit. We demand clarity before we will trust. We shrink your love to fit our fears.**

**Forgive us for living small when you have promised us a wider hope.**

**When we move through life in the night of anxiety, remind us that you neither slumber nor sleep.**

**Blow through us again, Spirit of the living God. Birth in us a deeper trust, a freer love, a larger vision of your grace.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### **Silence**

#### **Hymn #288**

*“Spirit of the Living God”*

*1*

*Spirit of the living God,*

*Fall afresh on me;*

*Spirit of the living God,*

*Fall afresh on me;*

*2*

*Melt me, mold me,*

*Fill me, use me.*

*Spirit of the living God,*

*Fall afresh on me.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

*Hear the good news: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

*In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, you are invited into new life.*

**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 121 (O.T., p. 571)*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

**Anthem***"I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes"*

William Steere

**The Second Lesson***John 3:1-17 (N.T., p. 93)*

*Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"*

*"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

*"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

**Sermon***"Born into a Wider Hope"*

Rev. Fred Harrell

**Prayers of the People****We Respond to the Good News****Call for the Offering**

*We give not out of fear, not out of obligation, but out of trust.*

*We offer our gifts as signs that we are being born into a wider hope—a life shaped by generosity rather than control.*

**Offertory***"One Bread, One Body" arr. Ron Schmoltze (1936-2018)***\*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**

*Steady and faithful God, You who watch over our coming and our going, receive these gifts. Use them to widen hope in this community and in your world. Birth new life through these gifts, for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** *(see insert)*

*Communion servers ~Kate Wheatley, Sheri Cunningham, Jodi Lax*

## 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      *"Set Me as a Seal"*

*Rene Clausen*

### Prayer after Communion

**Faithful God, You have fed us at this table with love, not condemnation, with grace, not fear. As your Spirit moves like the wind, birth in us a deeper trust. Watch over our going out and our coming in, and send us into the world as signs of your wider hope. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## We Go Out in God's Name

### \*Closing Hymn #361

*"O Christ, The Great Foundation"*

1

*O Christ, the great foundation  
On which Your people stand  
To preach Your true salvation  
In every age and land:  
Pour out Your Holy Spirit  
To make us strong and pure,  
To keep the faith unbroken  
As long as worlds endure.*

2

*Baptized in one confession,  
One church in all the earth,  
We bear our Lord's impression,  
The sign of second birth:  
One holy people gathered  
In love beyond our own,  
By grace we were invited,  
By grace we make You known.*

3

*Where tyrants' hold is tightened,  
Where strong devour the weak,  
Where innocents are frightened,  
The righteous fear to speak,  
There let Your church awaking  
Attack the powers of sin  
And, all their ramparts breaking,  
With You the victory win.*

4

*This is the moment glorious  
When He who once was dead  
Shall lead His church victorious,  
Their champion and their head.  
The Lord of all creation  
His heavenly kingdom brings,  
The final consummation,  
The glory of all things.*

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### Postlude

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

*Don Hustad (1918-2013)*

*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 Note: For Lent in 2026 I have chosen words which may inspire us to contemplate their many ramifications and which I have graphically offered. This week, **LIGHT**. Light is necessary for sight...and insight. May the light of our Lord provide us with enduring faith. (The background photography is part of The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin. Make our history provide us with the light to inspire humanity not to repeat inhumanity).

### ASL Interpreter – Stephanie Foisy

#### Announcements



<https://bit.ly/3FV1Sbv>

*Printed copies available in  
the Narthex*

#### Zelle

Stone Church of Willow Glen  
officemanager@stonechurch.org



[bit.ly/3VvGr7x](https://bit.ly/3VvGr7x)

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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

If you're interested in becoming a member of  
Stone Church, please contact the office  
([officemanager@stonechurch.org](mailto:officemanager@stonechurch.org))

1 (408) 269 - 1593  
www.stonechurch.org  
Pastor's day off: Friday

*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.*

This month Membership & Communications (M&C) and friends are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.

## Announcements

**Welcome Guests and Visitors!** - We're glad you're here at Stone Church. The nearest restroom is located between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall. Please exit through the double doors at the front of the Sanctuary (near the TV). Everyone is warmly invited to join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall, and on the patio, following worship. Large-print hymnals & seat cushions available on the back pew near the door.

**Nursery** - We welcome the joyful sounds of little ones during worship. If your baby (ages 0–3) becomes too wiggly, you're welcome to use the nursery (doors located on either side – use entry through Narthex or between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall). The nursery is open each Sunday for children ages 0–3.

**Kid's Club** - Today, Communion Sunday, children stay in worship with their families. Some children's activity boxes are in the Narthex to use while they're in the Sanctuary.

**Flowers** today are in honor of Joyce Summers, from her daughter, Alisa. *Happy Birthday to my mom, my biggest inspiration and best friend.*

**Sermon Theme** - Nicodemus comes by night, curious and cautious. Jesus speaks of being born from above, into a life shaped by trust rather than control. Psalm 121 grounds this rebirth in God's steady presence, reminding us that transformation unfolds under God's watchful care.

**Weekly Lenten Taizé** is this coming Tue, Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> (6:30pm). If you are looking for a way to experience the Lenten season with meaning and depth, you will find it in our weekly Taizé services: Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

**Daylight Saving Time** starts **next weekend**; remember to "Spring Forward" an hour to get to church on time!

**Healthy Communities Ministry's Medication Return** -Today we're collecting expired/unused medications and/or medical supplies items in the Social Hall after worship. Collection parameters: 1) All medications (prescription & OTC) in original containers, black-out names & other personal identifying info. 2) Do not mix medications in one container. 3) Medical supplies (syringes, dressings, pads, basins) must be unused and in good condition. These items will be donated to RotaCare Free Medical Clinic in SJ.

In addition, we'll set up a 'lending library' for durable medical equipment: crutches, wheelchairs, knee rollers, tray tables, etc. If you have something to lend or donate, please let us know.

Lastly, a reminder that we are available to help with any other medically related needs you might have, so please reach out to us at any time; Maureen Chandler, RN (408-410-4619), or Cathy Marlatt, RN (408-532-3212).

**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.

**“The Many” Concert** – Stone Church is hosting this musical group from Chicago, **next Sun, Mar 8<sup>th</sup>** (6:30pm). The Many is a creative collective making music and leading community gatherings that offer space for faith and doubt, lament and gratitude, helping us remember we are loved and we are not alone. This is a free concert for all.

**Stone Church Book Club Update** – The former “Men’s Book Group” invites all members & friends to meet in the Lincoln House Conference Room (Library) on **Mon, Mar 16<sup>th</sup>** (7:30 pm). Join us to discuss “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” by Agatha Christie; even if you haven’t read it, come anyway, for the conversation, wine & snacks.

**March 1 – 8, 2026**

**Sunday (3/1)**

8:30 - 9am           Choir Practice  
 9:30 - 10:30am    Worship & Communion  
 10:30 - 11am       Coffee Fellowship -SH (M&C)  
 11am - 12pm       Adult Ed - FR  
 5 - 7pm             Chromatic Rehearsal - SH

**Monday (3/2)**

9:30 - 11:30am     OMG - Conf.Room  
 12:30 - 4pm        Quilt Group - SH  
 4 - 7:30pm         Vivace – SH  
 5:30 - 7pm         PNC - Conf.Room  
 6 - 7:30pm         Vivace - SA  
 7:30pm             B&F - Zoom  
 7:45 - 9pm         Pariter Rehearsal - SH

**Tuesday (3/3)**

4:30 - 6:30pm     Worship Mtg - Conf.Room  
 6:30 - 7:30pm     Lenten Taizé - SA  
 7 - 8pm             M&C - Zoom  
 7:30 pm            B&G, CE, StoneWorks - Zoom

**Wednesday (3/4)**

1 - 3pm             Amethyst Circle - Zoom  
 3 - 5pm             Stephen Minister Leaders - CR  
 4:30 - 6:15pm     Vivace - SH  
 7 - 8:30pm         Choir Practice - SH

**Thursday (3/5)**

10 - 11am         Emerald Circle - Zoom  
 7 - 8:45pm        P&A - Zoom  
 5 - 8pm             Vivace - SH

**Friday (3/6)**

**Women's Re't - St. Francis**

**Saturday (3/7)**

**Women's Re't - St. Francis**  
 SJSC Retreat – All Facility)

**Next Sunday (3/8)**

**Women's Re't - St. Francis**  
**Daylight Saving Time Starts**

8:30 - 9am           Choir Practice  
 9:30 - 10:30am     Kids' Club - FR  
 9:30 - 10:30am     Worship - SA & Zoom  
 10:30 - 11am       Coffee Fellowship - SH (M&C)  
 11am - 12pm        Adult Ed - FR

**MARCH Birthdays** - (2nd) Babila Mfonfu; (3rd) Joyce Summers; (4th) Kathleen O'Brien; (5th) Carol Martin; (6th) Mary Jo Blazek; (8th) Jan

Keifer , Diane Van den Bosch; (10th) Lea Lawrence-Moiso; (12th) Vern Tegger; (14th) Grant Nilson; (16th) Caryl Westerberg, Jennifer Scott-Brand; (20th) Grant Balao; (24th) Fran Cole; (25th) Susan Erickson-Viitanen; (26th) Kelley Alwood; (28th); (29th) Cindy Bevan; ; (31st) Eric Bateman.

| <b>The Elders of the Session</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Clerk of Session ~ Deborah Crim (debcrim@pacbell.net)                                 |  |  |
| Class of 2026   | Class of 2027  | Class of 2028  |
| Maureen Chandler<br>Ruth McCreath<br>Steve Nelson<br>Stan Searing<br>Caryl Westerberg | Judi Kaiser<br>Jodi Lax<br>Matt Marcotte<br>Marsha Wadley                      | Neale Barret<br>Amity Bateman<br>Stephanie Easton<br>Joanne Vliet            |
| <b>The Board of Deacons</b>   |  |  |
| Moderator ~ Marta Espinal (marta.espinal@sbcglobal.net)                               |  |  |
| Class of 2026   | Class of 2027  | Class of 2028  |
| Neil Coleman<br>Marta Espinal<br>Kerry House-Nelson<br>Karen Wessels<br>Leland Wong   | Mary Jo Blazek<br>Jim Hagan<br>Mary Ann Hudson<br>Jenny Pichon<br>Dorothy Rowe | Fran Cole<br>Sheri Cunningham<br>Larry Lermo<br>Kathy Stark<br>Kate Wheatley |
| <b>Nominating Committee</b>   |  |  |
| Chair ~ Amity Bateman (amity.bateman@gmail.com)                                       |  |  |
| Class of 2026   |  | Class of 2027  |
| Susan Bedolla<br>Jim Hagan<br>Guy Lohman<br>Michele Smith                             |  | Janice Goertz<br>Suzanne Wolf  |
| <b>Pastor Nominating Committee</b>  |  |  |
| Sheri Cunningham<br>Emi Easton<br>Jeremy Easton<br>Carter Edwards                     |  | Brissa Lake<br>Matt Marcotte<br>Emily Meacham<br>Joanne Vliet                |

Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor  
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 Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate  
 Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita  
**ChoirDirector@stonechurch.org** – Nancy Kromm  
**Organist@stonechurch.org** – Barbara Vella  
**Family & Youth Ministry Director** – Malia Clark  
[Malia@stonechurch.org](mailto:Malia@stonechurch.org)  
**ChildrensChoir@stonechurch.org** – Peggy Spool

**OfficeManager@stonechurch.org** – Jennifer Scott-Brand

**Treasurer@stonechurch.org** – Ruthanne Martinez  
**ASL Interpreter Coordinator**

stonechurch.stephfoisy@gmail.com

Nursery Supervisor – Mary Jo Blazek

Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez

Memorial Coordinator – Hilleguus Faber

Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver

Parish Nurses – Maureen Chandler & Cathy Marlatt

**WebMaster@stonechurch.org**

**IT@stonechurch.org**

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**PrayerChain@stonechurch.org** – Mary-Ann Hudson

**PW@stonechurch.org** – Sheri Cunningham

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