



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

**September 14, 2025 - 9:30 a.m.
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

Chimes

Prelude

"Festival Toccata"

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

Welcome

Rev. Fred Harrell

Introit

"With a Voice of Singing"

*Martin Shaw
Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director*

***Call to Worship**

Sing to the Lord a new song!

We will lift our voices with joy.

All creation joins the chorus—the seas roar, the fields exult, the trees clap their hands.

We come to worship the God who makes all things new.

The story isn't over—God is still writing!

Let us sing with hope, let us sing with love, let us sing with our lives.

***Opening Hymn #611** *“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.*

***Prayer of Adoration**

Call to Confession

God calls us to sing a new song, yet too often we cling to the old ones—songs of fear, regret, or despair. Let us turn to God, trusting in mercy that makes all things new.

Prayer of Confession

Creating God, We confess that too often we cling to old songs— songs of failure, songs of fear, songs of cynicism. We replay the past until we cannot hear your future. We resist change, we doubt your justice, we close our ears to your melody of renewal. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us your song of mercy and joy. Help us to sing it with courage, until all the earth joins the chorus of your love. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:

The same God who calls us into a new song is the One who forgives, restores, and renews. In Jesus Christ, our old refrain is silenced, and a new melody of grace begins. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God!

***The Passing of the Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn #192

“Lord, The Light of Your Love is Shining”

*Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me*

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me*

We Listen to God's Word**The First Lesson**

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Anthem

“To Praise the Lord”

Joseph Martin

The Second Lesson

Psalms 96

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.” Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Sermon

“Sing a New Song”

Rev. Fred Harrell

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

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.

We Respond to the Good News

Call for the Offering

The psalmist invites us:

"Sing to the Lord a new song... declare God's glory among the nations."

One way we sing that new song is through our giving—joining God's melody of justice, joy, and renewal in the world. As we bring our gifts, may they become part of the chorus that tells of God's love to all people and all creation. Let us offer our lives and our gifts to God.

Offertory *"Be Thou My Vision" (Lord of All Hopefulness)* *setting by Dale Wood (1934-2003)*

***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 new songs and fresh beginnings, we bring our gifts to you, not as payment or performance, but as part of the chorus of hope you are writing in this world. Use these offerings to compose justice, to orchestrate peace, to amplify joy. And may our very lives sing of your goodness. Amen.

We Go Out in God's Name

***Closing Hymn # 804** *"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"*

1

*Rejoice, O pure in heart,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.*

<refrain>

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks,
and sing!***

2

*Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe*

<refrain>

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks,
and sing!***

3

*At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest,
the pilgrims reach their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest*

<refrain>

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks,
and sing!***

4

*Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your king.*

<refrain>

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks,
and sing!***

***Charge and Benediction**

***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 choir!

ASL Interpreter - Stephanie Foisy

Announcements



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

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<https://bit.ly/3VkGr7x>

Hard copies available in Narthex

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 August, **Budget and Finance Committee** and friends are serving coffee & refreshments after worship.

Announcements

Welcome Guests and Visitors! We hope you feel welcome 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 patio after worship. **Large Print Hymnals** and **Seat Cushions** are available on the back pew, by the door. **Nursery** - 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 aged 0-3.

Children's Church School Starts Today! – Children meet in the Fireside Room (stone building on the other side of the Social Hall). If your children are in worship with you, for their enjoyment, there are activity boxes & books in the Narthex (entry way) to use during worship.

The Retable Floral celebrates Jerry and Jan Keifer's 67th wedding anniversary!

Today the (Roaming) SJ Presbytery Unity Candle is at [El Estro](#) (Elder Lynn Gunter). Please pray for all God's people in this congregation.

Ice Cream Treats - Join on the church patio today after worship for a "Welcome Back" ice cream treat to celebrate the return to our church program year! The Membership & Communications Committee will have several kinds of frozen treats for you to enjoy while you explore many ways to get involved at Stone!

Parent Meeting - Parents/Guardians of 6th-12th Graders can meet in the **Fireside Room** today (11am-12pm). This is an adult-only meeting to meet with Malia. To hear about upcoming plans for the program and ask questions. This is a casual gathering intended to provide information and a relational touch point for who will be working with your kids, and what we will be doing.

Adult Ed (11 am SA) Join Craig Edgerton, the author of [Permission to Walk in Peace](#). This book is a profound anthology crafted by combat veterans, offering an artistic blend of poetry, essays, and stories that explore the intense and personal aftermath of war. It provides a first-hand account of healing from military PTSD that no other book has ever offered.

Through their raw and personal recounting of events, the veterans share how they have chosen to grow from their experience and not be victims of it. Their goal is to offer a beacon of hope for anyone dealing with trauma.

Youth Group meets tonight (5-7pm) for a swim party at the Coleman's (1971 Booksin Ave). All 6th – 12 graders are invited. Email malia@stonechurch.org for more info.

Adult Ed Next Week – Next week, we are moving Adult Ed back to the Fireside Room. Occasionally we may meet in the Sanctuary if there is a calendar conflict, but we will keep you up to date. **Sept 21st** Charlotte Dickson and Bob Cole will present a topic for discussion.

Men's Book Group meets **tomorrow, Mon, Sep 15th** (7 pm), in the Lincoln House (office) conference room, to discuss "The Demon of Unrest" by Erik Larson. All men welcome, even if you haven't read it-- enjoy the conversation, wine & snacks.

Family and Youth BBQ Update - Last Sunday's Family and Youth Ministry BBQ was a hit! Forty-six people; twenty youth (0-18) and 26 adults, showed up to play games, eat, laugh and meet new people. There was even a watermelon eating contest! What a great way to end the summer and start the new school year!

The Peace & Global Witness Offering, one of 4 PCUSA nation-wide special offerings, enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Stone Church retains 25% of the funds collected, which StoneWorks will distribute to groups working towards peacemaking efforts in our local community. This offering will be collected on Oct 5th, World Communion Sunday.

Stone Works August Donations to Mission Partners: Contact information is included to learn more about making a donation or about volunteer opportunities.

\$5000 to PACT, [People Acting in Community Together](#), our membership dues in the diverse grassroots organization that offers leadership training and collaboration to address contemporary social issues. pactsj.org

\$1381 to PCUSA from our church's donations to the national Pentecost Offering supporting at-risk children, youth and young adults. 60% goes to our region and the national church for projects. 40% stays with Stone Church for distribution.

\$920 to Razing the Bar, a local group that provides mentorship and housing support services to current and former foster youth in San Jose, from our 40% share of the Pentecost Offering. raisingthebar.org

\$2000 to World Central Kitchen for emergency food support for Gaza or where needed most. WCK is scaling up to serve 1 million meals a day in Gaza and they are a presence in the aftermath of the recent earthquakes in Afghanistan. wck.org

\$2000 to Immanuel House, the San Jose house that began as our Presbytery's project, provides transitional housing to refugees seeking freedom and opportunity in their new country. immanuelhousesj.org/

\$6750 to General Mission of PCUSA (the 3rd of 4 quarterly pledge amounts) the Presbyterian Mission Agency uses these unrestricted funds to meet a variety of urgent mission needs.
centernet.pcusa.org/what-we-do

Join the next Stone Works meeting Tue, Oct 7th (7 pm- Zoom) to allocate church donations to mission projects & activate congregational involvement in our community. Contact Maureen Chandler for the Zoom link (maureenLchandler@comcast.net).

Saying Goodbye to Fran & Julia - On Sun, Sept 28th we celebrate **Fran Basso and Julia Kraemer** (with cupcakes!) and bid them safe travels as they relocate to Vancouver, WA to be closer to Julia's mother. **A card/gift basket will be placed in the Social Hall during September. If you would like to offer a card or memento to Fran and Julia, please do so no later than September 28th.**

Budget & Finance – Grave Sites - Going through old files, we discovered that there are two grave sites at Oak Hill Cemetery, donated to Stone by a member several years ago. If you are just dying to get in on this deal, contact B&F Chair Neale Barret (neale.barret@gmail.com) by the end of September. If none of you want to buy them, we'll begin the process of selling them at market price online.

September 14 – 21, 2025

Sunday (9/14) Kickoff Sunday (Jennifer @ APA Conf)
 9:30 - 10:30am Church School - FR
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - SH (B&F)
 11am - 1pm Nom Com - Conf.Room
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA
 11am - 12pm Parent Mtg - FR
 5 - 7pm Youth Group - SH/K
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SA

Monday (9/15)
 9:30 - 11:30am OMG - Conf.Room
 2:30pm PW Page Turners Book Group - Zisch's
 4 - 7:30pm Vivace - SH
 6 - 7:30pm Vivace - SA
 7 - 7:30pm Vivace Parent Meeting - SA
 7pm Men's Book Group - Conf.Room
 7:45 - 9pm Pariter Rehearsal - SH

Tuesday (9/16)
 7 - 8:30pm Session - SH
 7:30 - 9pm High School Discussion Group - FR

Wednesday (9/17)
 4:30 - 6:15pm Vivace - SH
 7 - 8:30pm Middle School Meet Up - Rotating venue
 7:30 - 9pm Choir Practice - SH

Thursday (9/18)
 9am - 12pm Soulfest Group - Conf.Room
 3 - 5pm Stephen Ministers - SH
 5 - 8pm Vivace - SH
 6:30 - 7pm Vivace Parent Meeting - SA
 7 - 8:45pm P&A - Zoom

Friday (9/19)

Saturday (9/20)

Next Sunday (9/21)

9:30 - 10:30am Breakfast & Bibles - CR
 Conf.Room
 9:30 - 10:30am Church School - FR
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship -SH (B&F)
 11am - 1pm Nom Com - Conf.Room
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - FR
 5 - 7pm Chromatic Rehearsal - SH

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; (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 & Ginger Lubecke.

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries - Jan & Jerry Keifer (9/13/58); Sue & Doug Williams (9/14/68); Ida & Bruce Raby (9/18/54); Kim & Jeff Mattan (9/21/07); Peggy & Alan Spool (9/23/84).

Donate to Stone Church



Zelle (No Fees)
 Stone Church of Willow Glen



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



STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Harrell – Transitional Pastor
Pastor@stonechurch.org

Rev. Dr. David McCreath – Parish Associate

Rev. Marge Palmer – Pastor Emerita

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Organist@stonechurch.org – Barbara Vella

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ChildrensChoir@stonechurch.org – Peggy Spool

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Custodians – Victor & Sonia Perez

Memorial Coordinator – Hilleguus Faber

Wedding Coordinator – Lizanne Oliver

Parish Nurse – Mary Johnson

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MMM@stonechurch.org – Men's Mission & Ministry

PrayerChain@stonechurch.org – Mary-Ann Hudson

PW@stonechurch.org – Sheri Cunningham

StephenMinistry@stonechurch.org – Michele Smith

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