



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

***September 26, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

**The Preparation for the Word**

**Prelude**

*Pam Hood, Organist*

**Welcome**

*The Rev. Sammie Evans, Pastor*

**Moment for Peace & Global Witness Offering**

*StoneWorks*

**Call to Worship**

*Julia Roberts, Liturgist*

*Danielle & Brian Gustafson, Congregational Responders*

*We have walked with you, O God, from many parts of the world to this time and place.*

**And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to serve all people.**

*We leave behind our old securities; we leave behind our reliance on worldly goods.*

**And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to live with all people.**

*We leave behind all which holds us back; we leave behind all which keeps us from following you.*

**And we will walk with you, O God, into the world to work with all people.**

*We leave behind the fears which bind us; we leave behind the hurts which damage us.*

**And we will walk with you, O God, into the peace you offer to all people.**

*Friends, let us walk with and worship God.*

**Opening Hymn #275**

*“God of Our Life”*

## Call to Confession

*Sometimes our words and actions show how we are salt for the world. And sometimes, we lose our flavor and lose our way. We come to a time of confession so that our saltiness may be restored and we might be sent back on the way that leads to God. Let us pray together:*

## Prayer of Confession

**Called to be your people, Living God - why do we find it so hard to answer? You ask us to speak out against injustice, and we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us. You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us, but we close our eyes afraid that pain might convict us. You tell us that everyone, and each one, is created in your image, yet we persist in seeing “us” and “them.”**

**Forgive us, God of the Past and Creator of the Future. May we be the ones who go out into the world, bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, of healing, and of joy to everyone who is broken, even as we are made whole through the gift of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

## Silence

### Assurance of Pardon

*The Rev. Irene Pak Lee, Associate Pastor*

*Touched by the healing hands of Christ, filled with the grace of our God, led by the compassion of the Holy Spirit, our hearts are opened and we discover we are forgiven and at peace with God.*

*We are those who are created to love the unlovable; those who are created to bear grace; those who are created to embrace all people. So friends, receive the good news again for you this day. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Hallelujah and amen.***

### Passing of the Peace Liturgy

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

## We Listen To God’s Word

### The Old Testament Reading

*Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22*

*So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, ‘What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.’ Then Queen Esther answered, ‘If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.’ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, ‘Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?’ Esther said, ‘A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!’ Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, ‘Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.’ And the king said, ‘Hang him on that.’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.*

*Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from*

sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

“God Breathed”

Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

Scripture based (Genesis 1:1-2:7; Psalm 33)

Sung in 2017 by Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

**Children’s Sermon**

Mary Jo Blazek, Church School Administrator

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

‘For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.’

**Sermon**

“The Body of Christ”

The Rev. Sammie Evans

**We Respond to the Good News**

**Call for the Offering**

Use your own PayPal account to “send” money ( <b>without a fee</b> ) to office_manager@stonechurch.org, using your checking account, for which there are no fees. Enter a memo to specify the reason for the donation.	Use Stone’s PayPal account via the “donate” button at <a href="https://www.stonechurch.org/">https://www.stonechurch.org/</a> ; keep in mind that PayPal takes 2.9% + 30¢ per transaction of the amount as a service fee, so you may want to adjust your gift accordingly.
Sign-up for an automatic withdrawal from your checking. For more information please contact <a href="mailto:office_manager@stonchurch.org">office_manager@stonchurch.org</a> .	Drop your check in the <b>locked</b> mail box outside the office door temp office ~ 1108 Clark Wy.
Mail check: 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ Ca 95125	Use your bank's online bill pay to send a check to Stone Church.

**Offertory**

“Simple Gifts” & “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

arr. by Pam Hood (2018)

## 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

### Prayers of the People and the 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 Go Out in God's Name

### Closing Hymn #301

*"Let Us Build a House"*

### Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

*"Fugue in A minor" BWV 559*

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

## ASL Interpreter ~ Hannah Pahl

## Zoom Worship Coordinator ~ The Rev. Sammie Evans

Coordinates the logistics of the worship participants, via Zoom controls.

**Backup ~**

Photo images used during the hymns are prepared by **Rod Thorn**.

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

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## Announcements

**Preludes by Request** – If you have a particular hymn or song you'd like Pam Hood to play during the worship prelude email her the song title/composer and she will work it into her schedule ([pamela.hood@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.hood@gmail.com)).

**Adult Ed Today** (11am) - Would you like to understand more about the gospels? Sue Williams leads a program about *Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes* by John Shelby Spong. It's a fascinating book explaining Spong's view of why and how the gospels were written. It suggests the meaning behind major passages including Jesus' baptism and temptation, the birth stories, the transfiguration, the Sermon on the Mount, love for enemies, and the walk to Emmaus. A 2-page summary about the book is available on Fred's Weekly Update.

Join Adult Ed Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81912710217?pwd=eXVhYk1rcHY4LzVrWwXNKZk5wZlh6QT09>

Meeting ID: 819 1271 0217

**Passcode: stone**

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,81912710217# US

(San Jose)

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Meeting ID: 819 1271 0217

Find your local number:

**Human Trafficking Action Stand** begins again **tomorrow, Mon, Sep 27<sup>th</sup>**; we'll gather on the church patio at 8:15 a.m., where we will get our signs and then take our "stands" on various corners on Lincoln Ave. All interested folks are encouraged to join us as we stand up for the "end of modern-day slavery." Questions, or to volunteer? Contact Claudia Hamm at [jnchamm@gmail.com](mailto:jnchamm@gmail.com).

**Next Week is Kick-Off Sunday 10/3** – We are excited to be entering into a hybrid worship model and gathering in person **next Sun, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>** for the first time in over a year and a half! We will still offer our worship via Zoom, but with an additional limited capacity in-person gathering for worship in the Sanctuary, followed by Frappuccinos on the patio. Masks are required anytime you are in the church buildings. Please use the link below to sign up, so we can get an idea of how many folks will be attending in person & for contact tracing purposes. We're looking forward to welcoming you back & having you join us as you are able, in person or via Zoom! <https://rsvp.church/r/G6MPyS7U>

**Ushering** - There is a need for ushers in the coming weeks of October and all the way through December. Ushering is a great way to be involved and it doesn't take very much time. Please email Jodi Lax ([Jodi.d.lax@gmail.com](mailto:Jodi.d.lax@gmail.com)) with dates you would be available. Thank you for helping!

**Free Stuff** – During the church workday on Saturday (9/25) we will be readying the church for our in-person worship service (10/3) as well as clearing out unused furniture items from all around the church. Everything that is still usable will be put in the Lincoln House driveway and marked as free. We know we will have some children's tables (adjustable to adult height), as well as some children's chairs, some side tables, file cabinets, and whatever else pops up! Come on by and take what you'd like from the marked items. They will be in the LH driveway for a few days, so stop by and see if there is anything you can use.

**Book Study** - Presbyterian Women are offering a 4-week web book study (**tomorrow, Mon, Sep 27, and Oct 4 & 11**) with Kathleen Norris about her book *Amazing Grace, A Vocabulary of Faith*. In preparation for this study you can purchase her book through amazon.com. To sign-up, and for more information, e-mail [pw@sunnyvalepres.com](mailto:pw@sunnyvalepres.com). See PW speaker event information below for more about Kathleen Norris.

**The Peace & Global Witness Offering**, one of the 4 PCUSA nation-wide special offerings, enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This offering will be collected **next week** on World Communion Sunday, **Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**MMM is Hosting "Saturday Morning Coffee"** on **Sat, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>** (8:30 - 10 am) in the Social Hall. Coffee and sweet rolls/donuts provided; Jody Meacham is our speaker. Attendees must be fully vaccinated; except when you're eating or drinking, be masked-up. To reserve your spot, please email David McCreath ([rovinrev@gmail.com](mailto:rovinrev@gmail.com)).

**Presbyterian Women Speaker Event** – On **Sat, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>** (10:15 am – 2:30 pm) join their webinar discussion with three prominent speakers, focusing on challenges facing all of us as we learn to become more resilient. One of their speakers, Kathleen Norris, is an award-winning poet, writer, and author. Her books include *Resilience: Challenges of the Spirit*; *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography*; *The Cloister Walk*; and *Amazing Grace* (see book study above). There is \$25 fee, and a mail-in registration form; contact Rosaleen ([rmqzisch@gmail.com](mailto:rmqzisch@gmail.com)) for the registration flyer.

**Sewing Little Dresses for Africa** – Our annual PW "sew-in" will again be done individually in participants' homes, and dropped off at the Church Office. The deadline to have the dresses ready for mailing will be **Mon, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>**. Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit Christian organization that

provides relief to girls in Africa, where the dresses are distributed through orphanages, schools, and churches, to plant in the hearts of girls that they are worthy! If you'd like to participate, please contact Claudia Hamm at [inchamm@gmail.com](mailto:inchamm@gmail.com) for info and the dress pattern. Please sew along with us!

**Post-Covid---A Growth Opportunity?** – What did a year in isolation do to you? For many there were cancelled trips, vacations, weddings, graduations and of course lost time with family and friends. For some, this has resulted in a sense of apathy, “re-entry angst” and fear as we try to navigate a whole new world of masks, required proof of vaccination, repeat COVID tests etc. The on-going threat of the Delta virus as well as fires and other natural disasters has left us wondering, “What is next?”

How did you cope? How have you changed? In what way did your values change? How have you grown? Kathleen O'Brien will be leading a small group (6-8 members, in person) to examine these issues and to provide support for this situation that has affected all of us. Membership will be limited to allow for a deep dive into both the problems and possible gifts of this difficult time.

The group will meet for 6 weeks, from **Tue, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**, through **Tue, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** (skipping the week of Thanksgiving). Meetings will be from 10:30 am until noon. Members are asked to commit to attendance at all 6 sessions, and confidentiality is a must to ensure the safety and comfort of all. We'll meet in Room 1, and the fee for all 6 sessions is \$30, which will be donated to Sacred Heart Community Services. If you're interested in being a member of this group, contact Kathleen (1-408-499-9275, [kathleenobrien2004@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenobrien2004@gmail.com)).

**Tech Coordinator Position Update** – We have a couple of people interested in learning to run our new audio visual system, but we would like to round out our team with a few more folks. If you are interested and want to be part of this integral team please email Jennifer for more information ([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org)). **This is a paid, part-time position**; applicant(s) must be able to work on Sunday mornings, with the remainder of the workdays and days off to be coordinated with the supervisor. Email to get a copy of the full job description. Send this info to anyone you think might be interested, perhaps you know a tech savvy high school or college student who would like to earn a little extra cash?

**Connections** – Please use our website ([www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org)) to stay up to date on the latest information. From there you can access past worship and Taizé services, read our vision and mission statements, donate via PayPal, and much more, including viewing the [online calendar](#) (go to the home page/church life/calendar). When possible, Zoom links will be included in the calendar event info – click on the event and a window will pop up with more information.

### **Well Wishes to Our Folks Having September Birthdays & Anniversaries**

#### **SEPTEMBER Birthdays**

(2<sup>nd</sup>) Mary Anne Williams; (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wynn Barnes; (8<sup>th</sup>) Darline Lohman; (9<sup>th</sup>) Tracy Rydel; (10<sup>th</sup>) Michele Smith & Samantha Blodgett; (11<sup>th</sup>) Carl Blackwood; (12<sup>th</sup>) Jim Hamm; (13<sup>th</sup>) Brandon Walters; (16<sup>th</sup>) Mary-Stone Bowers; (17<sup>th</sup>) Katie Senigaglia ; (19<sup>th</sup>) Art Holtz; (19<sup>th</sup>) Maureen Searing; (20<sup>th</sup>) Virginia Holtz; (21<sup>st</sup>) Donna Bell; (22<sup>nd</sup>) Carol Johnson Fritz; (25<sup>th</sup>) Nancy Hopson; (29<sup>th</sup>) Mary Johnson; (29<sup>th</sup>) Michael Wheatley; (30<sup>th</sup>) Salese Kanter, Sue Evans, Mel Goertz, & Ginger Lubecke.

#### **SEPTEMBER Anniversaries**

Lynn & Ken Stutz (9/2/1990); Jan & Jerry Keifer (9/13/1958); Sue & Doug Williams (9/14/1968); Ida & Bruce Raby (9/18/1954); Catherine & Andrew Edwards (9/23/1990)

If you'd like to be included in our birthday/anniversary lists, please email r your birthday and/or anniversary info to Jennifer ([office\\_manager@stonechurch.org](mailto:office_manager@stonechurch.org)). Children under 18 are not listed, but we can update our database if you'd like to provide their information.



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[www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org)

**The pastors' day off is Monday.**

Email is the best way to reach the pastors, and all other staff.

- The Rev. Sammie Evans** (Pastor)  
[sammie\\_evans@stonechurch.org](mailto:sammie_evans@stonechurch.org)
- The Rev. Irene Pak Lee** (Assoc. Pastor)  
[irene\\_pak@stonechurch.org](mailto:irene_pak@stonechurch.org)
- The Rev. Sharon LeClaire** (Parish Associate)  
[Sharon.j.leclaire@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.j.leclaire@gmail.com)
- The Rev. Dr. David McCreath** (Parish Associate)  
[rovinrev@gmail.com](mailto:rovinrev@gmail.com)
- The Rev. Marge Palmer** (Pastor Emerita)  
[margepalmer@comcast.net](mailto:margepalmer@comcast.net)
- Nancy Kromm** (Choir Director)  
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- Pam Hood** (Organist)  
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- Mary Jo Blazek** (Church School Administrator)  
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- ASL Interpreter Coordinator** – Stephanie Foisy  
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- Men's Mission & Ministry** (MMM)  
Leland Wong [hikingscco@gmail.com](mailto:hikingscco@gmail.com)



**Prayer Chain Coordinators**

Jan Keifer [keiferjj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keiferjj@sbcglobal.net)  
Maureen Searing [mosearing@gmail.com](mailto:mosearing@gmail.com)

**Presbyterian Women** – Michele Smith  
[michelesmith801@comcast.net](mailto:michelesmith801@comcast.net)

**Stephen Ministry Coordinator**

Pauline Moore [paulinemoorepower@gmail.com](mailto:paulinemoorepower@gmail.com)

**StoneCares** - [Stonecares@stonechurch.org](mailto:Stonecares@stonechurch.org)

<b>The Elders of the Session</b>		
Clerk of Session ~ Mel Goertz		
<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Amity Bateman	Bob Cole	Fran Basso
Tammy Coleman	Derk Johnson	Carter Edwards
Todd Davidson	Emily Meacham	Gary Fritz
Julie Ludwig	Nina Mundi	Meredith Hurley
Alice McNelis	Fred Oliver	Barbara Krause
Charlotte McNelis	Kathy Stark	Brad Tips
Mike Raby-Brown		
<b>The Board of Deacons</b>		
Moderator ~ Jodi Lax		
<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Sue Evans	Tim Collins	Malia Clark
Steven Graham	Angie Davidson	Michele Edwards
Jim Hagan	Nanci Eksterowicz	Morgan Lord
Jan Keifer	Julia Kiplinger	Wendy Lord
Jodi Lax	Mike Kunz	Jenny Pichon
Kelsey Lax	Ronni Pahl	Kathleen Oliver
Scott Nelson	Nancy Shearer	Maureen Searing
Nancy Paul		Brandon Walters