



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

**December 5, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday in Advent
Advent Theme: "Close to Home"**

The Preparation for the Word

Chimes

Prelude

Pam Hood, Organist

Welcome

The Rev. Irene Pak Lee, Associate Pastor

Moment for Mission (75th Anniversary Fair Trade Coffee)

David Cicileo

Call to Worship

Malia Clark, Liturgist

If life was a home, then we would pray:

May love be the foundation. May God be the cornerstone. May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship Holy God.

Lighting the Second Advent Candle: Peace

Malia & Andrew Clark; Tana, Juno & Grady

As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives, we gather together around the candle of peace.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace—peace that rests between us and our grief, peace around our anxiety, peace between us and our self-criticism, peace amidst our relationships, peace at the core of our being, peace hovering through and in our world.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace. So today we light the candle of peace—as a reminder and as a prayer. Let it be so. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #5** *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (choir singers only)*

1
Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
set your minds on things eternal,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descended,
come our homage to command.

2
King of kings, yet born of Mary,
once upon the earth he stood;
Lord of lords we now perceive him
in the body and the blood.
He has given to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3
Rank on rank, the host of heaven
stream before him on the way,
as the Light of Light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes, the powers of hell to vanquish,
clears the gloom of hell away.

4
At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to his presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Call to Confession

In Scripture, Zechariah, a new father, speaks to his newborn son, John the Baptist, for the very first time. I want you to imagine yourself in his shoes...

What would you say to a newborn sleeping in your arms? What would you want them to know on their very first day? ...

It's impossible not to speak words of love when you're holding a baby, and yet as we grow up, that skill tends to become harder for us to practice. So let us return to our foundation—to words of love, starting with love for ourselves. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, when John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions.

Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The Rev. Dr. David McCreath, Parish Associate

Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please remain seated and greet folks seated around you with a sign of peace

We Listen To God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Malia Clark

God, who speaks a good news language—we admit, listening has never been our greatest gift. We are easily distracted; our minds run a million miles a minute. We doubt your faith in us and take the easy way out when it comes to hope. So today we bow our heads and ask for help. Settle our hearts. Quiet our minds. Steady our breathing. Help us to rest in you. Help us to listen for your good news. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

The Epistle Reading *Philippians 1:3-11 (N.T., p. 196)*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Anthem

"For where Love is, There is God"

Douglas E. Wagner

Stone Church Chancel Choir; Nancy Kromm, Director

Children's Sermon

Mary Jo Blazek, Children's Ministry Director

(Children dismissed to church school)

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:57-80 (N.T., p. 57)

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

We Respond to the Good News

Call for the Offering

The Rev. Dr. David McCreath

*After worship, please leave offering in the basket provided in the Narthex.
See insert for more ways to donate to Stone Church.*

Offertory

“Meinen Jesum lass ich nicht” (I Shall Not Leave My Jesus)

Walther (1684-1748)

***Dedication of the People and Their Gifts Hymn #592**

To learn the Doxology in ASL, watch the interpreter or the choir singers.

**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**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome & Invitation

The prophets foretold it: the desert burst into bloom. Angelic messengers delivered news: a priest lost his speech; a young woman found her voice. ... All are welcome to this Table.

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

How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good... And so with saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are fully of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire... who is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your life, death, and resurrection, Lord Jesus, until you come again to make us all whole.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread, this cup...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion & 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 #2 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (choir singers only)*

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.	2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne
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Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Irene Pak Lee

Postlude *"Toccata, No. 16"*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

*Those who are able may stand.

ASL Interpreter ~ Amberle Walsh

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

Artist Note: Today we are in Spain at Puerto de la Duquesa.

Announcements

Welcome Guests and Visitors! We hope you already feel at home among us here at Stone Church. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship after worship. If you have children, they are welcome to worship with you for the entire service, or to join the other children during the Children's Sermon & Church School. We welcome the sound of little ones during worship, but if your baby gets too wiggly for you, you may take them to the nursery, located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall.

Visitor/Prayer Request Card – Visitors who'd like to give the office their contact information can complete one of the "cards" located in the pew-back holders and place it in the offering plate. "Regulars" may also use these to update their contact info, or for anyone to make a prayer request to the Pastors and Deacons.

The Chrismon Tree – Can you find a crown or butterfly symbol on the tree? These are just two of the symbols used by early Christians to identify themselves or meeting place to one another. The crown is a symbol of victory and sovereignty, the butterfly represents resurrection and eternal life. 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...). To find out more go on-line and search for "Chrismon Symbols" or pick up one of the Chrismon pamphlets in the Narthex.

Adult Ed – (11am, Sanctuary/Zoom) Join Todd Davidson & Meredith Hurley, chairs of our StoneWorks committee, who will be talking about their community partners and the holiday gift program with Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley (see Holiday Gift blurb). Zoom link and password (**stone**): (ID: 819 1271 0217)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81912710217?pwd=eXVhYkIrcHY4LzVrWXNKZk5wZlh6QT09>

Upcoming Adult Ed (12/12/21) – *"Holidays: The most wonderful time of year, right?"* Join Kathleen O'Brien and examine the causes of holiday stress.

12/19/21 – Carol Singing with Pam and Laraine!

Stone Church 75th Anniversary Collectables - The first of the 75th anniversary logo merchandise (coffee/camp mugs, water bottles, coffee clip/spoon, and Fair Trade coffee) are available today during coffee hour!

Deacon Christmas Flowers - 'Tis the season when the Deacons purchase Christmas flowers for the sanctuary; and you can be part of this Stone Church flower tradition by honoring someone special with a donation to help purchase the flowers. Please fill out the form below and circle whether the flowers will be *in memory* or *in honor* of the person named. The flowers will decorate the sanctuary through Dec. 24th. Over the preceding weeks, the flowers will be distributed to people in the church, including members who cannot attend services.

Complete and return this info, along with your \$5.00 donation, by December 12th, to the offering plate or leave in the office manager's box. *Make checks payable to Stone Church with "Deacon's Fund" on the memo line.* The names you designate will be printed in the bulletin on Dec. 19th.

Questions, please contact Sue Evans (jaysue@comcast.net, 408-282-4741), or the church office (office_manager@stonechurch.org, 408- 269-1593).

Your Name: _____

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

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Pledge Envelopes are available on the patio **today** after worship for those who would like envelopes for their monthly or weekly pledge. You can also complete a pledge card if you haven't yet had a chance. After today, envelopes will be available in the office. For more information, contact office_manager@stonechurch.org.

Surprise Christmas Greetings - *Would you like to surprise a Stone member with an unexpected Christmas greeting?* There is something delightful about getting a Christmas card in the mail from someone you didn't expect. Would you like to be the sender of that unexpected holiday greeting to another member of Stone Church, whom you may or may not know? **Today and next week (12/12)**, you can randomly pull a name (or more!) from a basket in the narthex after worship and send a surprise Christmas card to that person. It's a small but loving way to keep our congregation connected to each other this season. If you aren't attending in-person worship, you can contact Barbara Krause via email and she'll randomly choose a name for you (bkrause90@gmail.com).

Advent Taizé - Weekly Taizé services *in the Sanctuary (in-person only)* and no sign-up is needed. Join us each **Tuesday** (6:45–7:15pm), **12/7, 12/14, and 12/21**. This service will *not* be on Zoom.

Holiday Gift Program - This year StoneWorks will support the Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley's holiday gift program. This supports refugees and local families in need. You can pay online for gifts using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/jfseaf2021>. Donations must be made online by **Wed, Dec 15th**.

Seniors in Transition is **this coming Thu, Dec 16th** (11am) via Zoom. Please join us as we share stories and get to know one another more deeply! Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4645348883>

Clerk of Session needed - Our Clerk of Session, Mel Goertz, will be retiring from the position at the end of June 2022, and we need to find a replacement. Finding a replacement soon will give the new clerk time to work with Mel, becoming familiar with the tasks and responsibilities of the clerk. Interested? Need more info? Contact Sammie (sammie_evans@stonechurch.org) or Mel (melgoertz@att.net).

Ushering – **We need ushers 12/24 (9pm), 12/26, and into January**. This is a fun job; minimal training required (same day training). 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). Thank you for helping!

Please Continue Sign-ups for in-person worship <https://rsvp.church/r/G6MPyS7U>. You're welcome to sign up for multiple events with this link.

Donate to Stone Church – **1)** Place your donation in one of the offering baskets in the Narthex. **2) PayPal:** Use your own PayPal account to send money to office_manager@stonechurch.org (fees may or may not apply depending on payment type). **OR** Use Stone's PayPal account via the "donate" button at www.stonechurch.org/ (fees = **2.89% + 49¢** per transaction); **3)** Use your online banking bill pay to send a check. **4)** Drop a check in the **locked** mailbox outside the office door (at church). **5)** Mail to 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ CA 95125. **6.** Sign-up for auto withdrawal from your checking. Contact the office manager for more info.

2021 Pledge Contributions Due by Dec 31st - Don't wait till the last minute! Pledge contributions must be rec'd or postmarked by Dec 31st to appear on your 2021 Year End Statement.

Tech Crew - Thank you to our wonderful tech crew working in the back of the Sanctuary! Some great people have stepped up to learn the sound, video, and Zoom process for our hybrid services. In addition, thank you to our congregation for graciously living through the tweaks, hoots, and various zooming camera angles as the whole process is learned and perfected!

Our liturgist this morning is **Malia Clark**.

This week's Deacon greeters are **Angie & Todd Davidson**.

Today's ushers include **Karen Wessels**.

You are cordially invited to continue enjoying God's grace by joining us at our coffee fellowship on the Patio after the Worship service. During December, **Presbyterian Women and friends** are serving coffee and refreshments.

Membership Inquiry Luncheons

Held twice a year; our next will be Feb 6, 2022

DECEMBER Birthdays

(4) Judy West; (10) Nicole Gasparik; (12) Scott Salzer; (13) Neale Barret; (14) Jean Raby; (16) Mike Raby-Brown; (17) Madeline McNelis & Olivia VanDenBosch; (22) Nicholas Hurley; (23) Stan Searing; (26) Ricky Rasura; (27) Bill Coleman; (28) Ginny Barret; (29) Wendy Lord

DECEMBER Anniversaries

Pat Patterson & Scott Willis (12/1/1984); 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); Carrie & Mario Giorgianni (12/30/2005)

Calendar

December 5 - 12, 2021

Sunday (12/5) 2nd Sunday in Advent
Sammie off
 9:30 - 10:30am Worship & Communion - SA
 10 - 10:30am Church School
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
 11am - 12:30pm M&C meeting/lunch
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA & Zoom

Monday (12/6)
 4:30 - 5:30pm Vivace Joint Prep - SH
 6 - 8pm Vivace - SA
 6:30 - 8pm Vivace (Ensemble) – SH
 7:30pm B&F - Zoom

Tuesday (12/7)
 10:30am - 12pm Post Covid Group - Room 1
 5pm Worship Mtg - Zoom
 6:45 - 7:30pm Advent Taizé Service - SA
 7:30pm M&C - Zoom; CE - Zoom
 7:35pm B&G - Zoom

Wednesday (12/8)

4:15 - 6:45pm Vivace (Int A&B) - SH
 7:30 - 9pm Chancel Choir Practice - SH

Thursday (12/9)

9 - 11:30am PWCT - SH
 6 - 8pm Vivace (Ensemble) - SH/SA

Friday (12/10)

1 :30 - 4pm Liturgical Arts – Room 1/SH

Saturday (12/11)

10 - 11am Vivace Rehearsal - SH

Next Sunday (12/12) 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:30 - 10:30am Worship - SA & Zoom
 10 - 10:30am Church School
 10:30 - 11am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
 11am - 12pm Adult Ed - SA & Zoom
 2 - 4pm Y.Grp - Secret Santa - Irene's

Mail: 1937 Lincoln Ave., SJ 95125
Office M-F 9am - 1pm 1108 Clark Way
1 (408) 269 - 1593
www.stonechurch.org
 Monday: Pastors' day off

ELECTED LEADERS

The Elders of the Session		
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		
The Board of Deacons		
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

STAFF DIRECTORY

The Rev. Sammie Evans - Pastor
sammie_evans@stonechurch.org

The Rev. Irene Pak Lee - Associate Pastor
irene_pak@stonechurch.org

The Rev. Sharon LeClaire – Parish Associate
Sharon.j.leclaire@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. David McCreath - Parish Associate
rovinrev@gmail.com

The Rev. Marge Palmer - Pastor Emerita

Nancy Kromm - Choir Director
nancy_kromm@stonechurch.org

Pam Hood - Organist

Peggy Spool - Children's Choir Director

Mary Jo Blazek - Church School Administrator
maryjo_blazek@stonechurch.org

Jennifer Scott-Brand - Office & Facility Manager
office_manager@stonechurch.org

Ruthanne Martinez - Treasurer -
treasurer@stonechurch.org

ASL Interpreter Coordinator –
asl-coordinator@stonechurch.org

Joanne Vliet - StoneNews Editor
stone_news@stonechurch.org

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) - Leland Wong
hikingscco@gmail.com

Prayer Chain Coordinators -

Jan Keifer & Maureen Searing
keiferjj@sbcglobal.net; mosearing@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women – Michele Smith
michelesmith801@comcast.net

Stephen Ministry Coordinator - Pauline Moore
paulinemoorepower@gmail.com

StoneCares - Stonecares@stonechurch.org