



**Stone Church of Willow Glen -
Presbyterian Church (USA)**
San José, California
January 16, 2022 - 9:30 a.m.

**Prophet Sunday:
A Service of Lessons and Carols
from Biblical to Modern Day Prophets**

The Preparation for the Word

Prelude

Pam Hood, Organist

Welcome & Announcements

The Rev. Irene Pak Lee, Associate Pastor

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Song #543

“God Be the Love to Search & Keep Me”

Glory to God hymnal

1
God be the love to search and keep me
God be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me.

<Chorus>

**O Christ surround me,
O Christ surround me.**

2
Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
Great cloud of witnesses enfold;
Prophets apostles, angels witness

<Chorus>

3
Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight
flashing of lightning, strength of wind, depth
of the sea to soil of planet;

<Chorus>

4
Walking behind to hem my journey, going
ahead to light my way, and from beneath,
above, and all ways,

<Chorus>

5
Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

<Chorus>

Preparing to Receive the Words of the Prophets

Vern Tegger, Liturgist

To begin this service, we must ready our beings to receive what the prophets have to say to us. Prophets speak difficult truths that are hard to hear because they challenge the status quo and shake us out of our complacency.

Throughout history, prophets have been ignored, chastised, imprisoned, and murdered for the words they dared to speak. If we seek to truly receive and be transformed by the words of a prophet, we must first admit, or confess, our reluctance to do so. So let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, we were made to be a worldwide family, unique and yet living together in peace and love, and yet today we confess that we are a divided people living in strife. We are created good and we are called to uphold your holy image in one another, and yet we acknowledge and confess our reluctance to do good, closing our eyes to injustice, and complicit in deferring the hopes of the oppressed. We condemn racial injustice in our pronouncements, yet cling to the privileges derived from inequity. We participate in our own oppression as we oppress others.

God, help us to name our sin this day, to claim responsibility for our actions and inactions, and to change our behavior. Move us forward with the compassion of your grace. Help us to receive the words of your prophets and to recommit ourselves to you and to your call for righteousness, equity, and justice in all the land and for all the peoples of the earth. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance & Invitation

Scripture reveals to us a long love story between God and God's people. It is story of the people consistently getting it wrong, and God consistently forgiving and bringing the people back into the fold. Every time we gather to worship, we begin by acknowledging our place in this story. We acknowledge our failings and find assurance, strength, and wisdom in God's everlasting mercy. Friends, today and every day, we are forgiven. We are made whole. We are set free to try again.

*Assured of God's steadfast love and faithfulness, we are invited to receive the words of the prophets, that we might learn anew how to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. With this promise, we declare with boldness today, **Hallelujah and amen!***

The Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Carol #434

"Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples"

1	Today we all are called to be Disciples of the Lord To help to set the captive free Make plowshare out of sword To feed the hungry, quench their thirst Make love and peace our fast To serve the poor and homeless first Our ease and comfort last	3	Pray justice may come rolling down As in a mighty stream, With righteousness in field and town To cleans us and redeem For God is longing to restore An earth where conflicts cease A world that was created for A harmony of peace
2	God made the world and at its birth Ordained our human race To live as stewards of the earth, Responding to God's grace But we are vain and sadly proud We sow not peace but strife Our discord spreads a deadly cloud That threatens all of life	4	May we in service to our God Act out the living Word And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard As stewards of the earth may we Give thanks in one accord To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord

A Prophetic Word

Nina Mundi

Excerpts from "The Hill We Climb" by poet Amanda Gorman

When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade? The loss we carry, a sea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast, We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what just is isn't always just-ice. And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it. Somehow we do it. Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished...

...And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true, that even as we grieved, we grew, that even as we hurt, we hoped, that even as we tired, we tried, that we'll forever be tied together, victorious. Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division. Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and no one shall make them afraid. If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade. But in all the bridges we've made, that is the promise to glade, the hill we climb. If only we dare It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit, it's the past we step into and how we repair it...

...We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation, because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation. Our blunders become their burdens. But one thing is certain, If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy, and change our children's birthright...

...When day comes we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid, the new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.

A Prophetic Word

Amos 5:15-24

Dhar Blackwood

Hate evil and love good and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: In all the squares there shall be wailing; and in all the streets they shall say, 'Alas! alas!' They shall call the farmers to mourning, and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing; in all the vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through the midst of you, says the Lord.

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Anthem

"Forgive Us"

by the Many

Stephanie & Jeremy Easton, vocals & guitar

Children's Sermon

Mary Jo Blazek, Church School Administrator

A Prophetic Word

Stephanie Hanson-Quintana
from "See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love"
by Valarie Kaur

In my early life as an activist, marching in the streets, bullhorn to my lips, I used the language of resistance. Resistance—to everything from war to white supremacy to the destruction of the earth—was necessary for survival... But the longer I spent listening to the stories of marginalized people, tending to their wounds, the more I heard a deeper longing—for a future where we were all safe and secure in our bodies, free to pursue our dreams, where our social, political, and economic institutions supported not just our survival but our flourishing. We could resist with all our might and never deliver such a future. We needed to do more than resist. We need to reimagine the world.

The greatest social reformers in history did not only resist oppressors—they held up a vision of what the world ought to be. Nanuk sang it. Muhammad led it. Jesus taught it. Buddha envisioned it. King dreamed it. Dorothy Day labored for it. Mandela lived it. Gandhi died for it. Grace Lee Boggs fought for it for seven decades. They called for us not only to unseat bad actors but to reimagine the institutions of power that ordered the world. Take any crisis and notice it's antecedent—in the United States, some of the same detention camps that hold migrant children today once held Japanese Americans and before that indigenous people; the criminal justice system controls more black people today than were enslaved in the year 1850; the military-industrial complex that President Eisenhower warned about in the 1950s has run a war on terror for so long that distant war has become a normal feature of American life. Any social harm can be traced to institutions that produce it, authorize it, or otherwise profit from it. To undo the injustice, we have to imagine new institutions—and step in to lead them.

A Prophetic Word

Stephanie & Jeremy Easton; Emiko, Amaya, Kaiyo
Excerpts of the Charge to the Graduates at Vanderbilt University Divinity School
delivered by Emilie M. Townes, May 2016

*the other day, i was sitting with my aunt helen and we were talking about what i might say to you today
she's a long-retired academic administrator
she batted her eyes a time or two---always a sign that i need to brace for what's coming next
and then she said, "tell them to run for the hills!"
i immediately said, i don't think that's a very hopeful message
and then, i got to thinking
hills and mountains are deeply biblical
they appear over 500 times between the Hebrew bible and the new testament
maybe i should tell you all to run for the hills
run for the hills where holy weird things seem to happen
be it mooses up on mount sinai
or elijah on mount horeb or mount carmel
or abraham on mount moriah
or noah on mount Ararat
or the beloved in song of solomon who comes leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills
or jesus, peter, james, and john on a high mountain
the normal, the mundane, the predictable all fall away on mountaintops
and the strange, the mysterious, the holy, the sacred comes in clouds
it should not escape your notice that things begin, end, and change on these biblical mountains
which in some cases are really an elevated ridge or hill
but whatever their actual height, in the biblical world, high places are sacred places
so it seems to me that aunt helen was giving us good advice: run for the hills. . . run for the hills*

to get a glimpse of the promised land

to get a sense of direction

a touchstone of hope

an ounce of righteousness

a fountain of love

a drumline for your faithfulness

a deep measure of what it means to blend hope and optimism in a world that desperately,

desperately needs to believe in a better future for all rather than for just a few—and only

taking care of the few is the full measure of love

run for the hills where we face the hard realities of our worlds where some of us are brutalized sexually or victims of postmodern lynchings (because of sexuality, race, class, age or just because) or warehoused in prisons or shunted aside because of perceived disabilities...

...i urge you to keep your eyes, hearts, minds, souls, spirits, bodies open to what God has done and will continue to do

live your lives remembering that even the smallest voice can make a harmony

live your lives remembering that a drop of water can keep the river high

live your lives remembering that God is inside you and inside of everyone else who was, is, or ever will be and God surrounds all of us and stands with us regardless

run for the hills and as you do, i urge you to make the holy boldness move of refusing to settle for a laissez-faire tailgate faithfulness that demands absolutely nothing from you...

...you must do more than just show up...

...live your lives as fully as you possibly can, remembering faithfulness is not on the optional reading list of existence...

...run up that hill with holy stubbornness that is seething with the spirit of a new heaven and a new earth

run up that hill as you become a cathedral of resistance and hope and love and vision

run up that hill

run up that hill

run up that hill

and have the good sense to take others with you

God's speed and God's blessing

Carol #289

“O God of Every Nation”

1

O God of every nation,
Of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
And bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us
And heal our strife-torn world.

2

From search for wealth and power
And scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower
Destruction through the night,
And blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation,
Eternal God, we pray.

3

Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all my find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
Your servants undergird.

4

Keep bright in us the vision
Of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division
Give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious
And Christ shall rule victorious
Over all the world's domain.

A Prophetic Word

Isaiah 42:1-9

Babila Mfonfu

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of our God. Thanks be to God!

Reflection

“Rejoice, Be Patient, Persevere”

The Rev. Irene Pak Lee

Carol

Prayer of Imagination

Meredith & Nicholas Hurley

Almighty Creator,

On a weekend where we remember the life of Dr. King, we remember again that he had a dream. He had a dream where the ideals of justice and freedom, and that all were created equal were foundational principles to how we should live and move in this world.

Help us to make this dream our dream. Help us to recognize that we can delay this dream by our inaction or help realize it through our action. Help us not merely celebrate the dream but to start living it as part of our daily lives, for we recognize that his dream was not about an ideal world, but it is about the real world. It is a call for us to remember the real world where injustice abounds.

And so, fill us again with your vision this day to live into beloved community where everyone is welcomed, power is shared, and all your children know wholeness and well-being. Help us begin with imagining ourselves in this new reality and help us do the internal work to get there. May it be so. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“O Rest in the Lord” from Elijah

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
arr. by Pam Hood*

*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

A Prophetic Word

Marion Lee

An excerpt from a sermon in 1957 delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church called "Loving Your Enemies" by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In the final analysis, love is not this sentimental something that we talk about. It's not merely an emotional something. Love is creative, understanding goodwill for all [people]. It is the refusal to defeat any individual. When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system..."

Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, "Love your enemies." It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals.

That's it. There is a power in love that our world has not discovered yet. Jesus discovered it centuries ago. Mahatma Gandhi of India discovered it [a few years ago], but most men and most women never discover it. For they believe in hitting for hitting; they believe in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth; they believe in hating for hating; but Jesus comes to us and says, "This isn't the way."

But there is another way. And that is to organize mass non-violent resistance based on the principle of love. It seems to me that this is the only way as our eyes look to the future. As we look out across the years and across the generations, let us develop and move right here. We must discover the power of love, the power, the redemptive power of love. And when we discover that we will be able to make of this old world a new world. We will be able to make [humanity] better. Love is the only way."

Sending Carol #301

"Let Us Build a House"

Glory to God hymnal

1
Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
<Refrain>
**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

4
Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
<Refrain>

2
Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
<Refrain>

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Oh Happy Day" & "St. Anthony Chorale"

arr. by Pam Hood

ASL Interpreter ~ Hannah Davis

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

Announcements

Office Closed tomorrow, Mon, Jan 17th in observance of MLK.

Zoom Worship – At this time, because of the COVID-Omicron variant, we've decided that for the remainder of January (Jan 16, 23, 30) we will return to Zoom/online worship. At the end of the month we will reassess and move forward from there, hopefully back into hybrid worship as we have been doing.

The office and building will remain with the same masked guidelines. The Zoom link and bulletin are available through the website and Weekly Update. Also, on Facebook ([facebook.com/stonechurchwg](https://www.facebook.com/stonechurchwg)) you can watch the service live as well as see past services.

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.

The flowers on the Retable this week are in celebration and recognition of what would have been Hazel and Bob James' 80th wedding anniversary and Irene & Marion's 6th wedding anniversary. The beautiful florals were arranged by Diane Van Den Bosch.

Adult Ed returns **today (11:15 am) on Zoom only**, featuring Mary Jo and Irene and some of our youth. Our hope is to return to hybrid presentations in the future. Join Adult Ed Zoom Meeting (ID: 819 1271 0217) Passcode: stone <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81912710217?pwd=eXVhYkIrcHY4LzVrWXNKZk5wZlh6QT09>

Seniors in Transition will meet on **Thu, Jan 20th** (11 am) via Zoom (the 3rd Thursday). We will continue to share stories of our lives. If you'd like to receive a reminder about upcoming meetings, and have your name added to the list, please contact Rev. Pak Lee (irene_pak@stonechurch.org) We hope you'll join us as we share and get to know one another more deeply! Zoom link as usual is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4645348883> - Meeting ID: 464 534 8883

Star Gifts for 2022 are still available in the church office throughout the month of January. If you haven't received a star word to ponder throughout this year, you are welcome to come and get one! Rev. Irene is also happy to mail them to you. Just e-mail her at irene_pak@stonechurch.org and she'll randomly select one for you and send it your way.

2022 Floral Calendar is in the Narthex along with some "Save the Date" reminder postcards. Write your name on a Sunday slot and take a reminder. You can then bring flowers for worship on that Sun-day. The flowers can be from your own garden, purchased, or talk with Diane Van Den Bosch if you'd like to purchase one of her beautiful creations. If you want something special written in the insert for that Sunday, please send an email to let the office know (office_manager@stonechurch.org).

New Member Inquiry – (date unknown) If you are interested in attending the next New Member Inquiry meeting, please email Rev. Pak Lee (irene_pak@stonechurch.org). This is for people interested in becoming a member of Stone Church, or maybe you're not ready yet, but would like to hear about the process; send Irene your contact info and we will keep you informed.

Paying Your Annual "Per Capita" is Easy - Stone Church annually pays \$40 per member (Per Capita) to support the PCUSA. Paying your portion means Stone doesn't have to pay for it from church funds that could have gone to other useful purposes. Just write a check, (\$40 per member) made out to Stone Church, put "Per Capita" in the memo line, and drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the office. Paying by cash? Simply put your cash in an envelope with your name and "Per Capita" listed on the outside. *This is a voluntary commitment on your part, not Presbyterian "dues",* but it does represent every Stone Church member's willingness to be a participant in our shared mission to God's service with all the other church's members of the PCUSA denomination.

Donate to Stone Church – 1) PayPal: Use your PayPal account, send money to office_manager@stonechurch.org OR use Stone’s PayPal account via the “donate” button at www.stonechurch.org/ (fees = **2.89% + 49¢** per transaction); **2)** Use your online banking to send a check. **3)** Drop a check in the **locked** mailbox outside the office door (at church). **4)** Mail to 1937 Lincoln Ave, SJ CA 95125. **5.** Sign-up for auto withdrawal from your checking. Contact the office manager for more info.

JANUARY Birthdays

(1st) Ken Henry, Matt Perdue; (3rd) Bill Blodgett; (6th) Matthias Lathe; (7th) Julia Roberts; (8th) Jean Hatley; (15th) Fran Basso, Elle Nilson; (18th) JoAnn Burgyan, Tom Hatley; (20th) Donald Foster, Nancy Kromm, Nancy Weiss; (21st) Ben McDaid; (22nd) Chris Costello, Jody Meacham; (24th) Carter Edwards, John Cunningham; (25th) Pauline Moore; (26th) Brandon Williams; (27th) Tim Collins; (28th) Amber Rasura, Aaron McNelis; (29th) Connie Gum, Alyssa Blodgett; (30th) John Lococo, Marta Espinal.

JANUARY Anniversaries

(1st) Brian & Danielle Gustafson (2002); (17th) Hazel & Bob James (1942), Irene & Marion Pak Lee (2016); (28th) Emily & Jody Meacham (1984)

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The Rev. Marge Palmer -
 Pastor Emerita

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Liliana Borda - Nursery Supervisor

Victor & Sonia Perez - Custodians

Hilleguus Faber - Memorial Coordinator

Lizanne Oliver - Wedding Coordinator

Mary Johnson - Parish Nurse

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hikingscco@gmail.com

Prayer Chain Coordinators –
 Jan Keifer & Maureen Searing

keiferjj@sbcglobal.net; mosearing@gmail.com

Membership Inquiry Luncheons

For more info, send your contact info to
Irene_pak@stonechurch.org

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