

San Jose Christian Reformed Church

“God’s love to us, God’s love through us...”

May the Lord bless us all as we worship Him here today.

Pastor Nam Kieu is preaching for us this morning.

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors!

**Sunday, November 25, 2007- 9:30 AM
Morning Worship**

Coming Together and Praising God

Prelude: Our Preparation for Worship

Welcome, Greetings and Announcements: Elder Harvey V.

We Greet One Another

Call to Worship: 1 Peter 1:23-25- Pastor Brad Smith

Offering Praise to God: *“Come, Thou Almighty King”*
“Ancient Words”

Prayer- Our Confession and God’s Assurance

Call to Confession: Matthew 11:28-30- Pastor Brad Smith

Prayer of Confession: *“Change My Heart, Oh God”*

Assurance of Pardon in Scripture and Song:

1 John 1:9; 2:1-2

“Good to Me”

“Thy Word”

Congregational Prayer

Children ages 3 through grade 6 leave us for “Kids’ Life”

Offerings of Gratitude and Love to God

Offering Our Gifts: Church Ministry Fund

Special Offering: Habitat for Humanity

Deacon’s Prayer

Instruction from God’s Word

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20- Pastor Nam Kieu

Message: **“Therefore...Stand Firm”**

Prayer

Leaving to Serve

Song: *“O Word of God Incarnate”*

Blessing

Closing Song: *“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”*

WELCOME!

If you are a first time visitor, please complete a “Communication Card” and stop by the welcome table in the back of the sanctuary for a gift and information packet. Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following our morning worship service.

Adult Sunday School meets at 11:00 in the Fireside Room.

The class for preschool through grade 5 also meets at 11:00.

No JJs or Sonlife today.

Next Sunday at SJCRC

December 2, 9:30 AM: Morning Worship and Communion Service. Pastor Brad Smith will be preaching for us. Special Offerings: Faith Promise. Please join us for coffee and refreshments after the morning service. At 11:00 AM: Adult Sunday School- “To Worship More Deeply”. Classes for all ages through high school also meet at 11:00.

Elder-Deacon Care Groupings

Elder/Deacon phone numbers are in the church directory. *Please inform them directly* of any need you might have.

<u>Last Name Beginning</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
A-B	Doug P.	Scott V.
C-G	Jake B.	Bruce B.
H-L	Harvey V.	Dan M.
M-P	Steve B.	Bruce G.
R-T	Jacob Van E.	Doug B.
U-Z	Tom B.	Gert B.

Church Officers:

Harvey V., Council President

Dan M., Deacon Chair

Jake B., Council Vice President

Fred R., Treasurer

Randy M., Council Clerk

From the Deacons: October Offerings

CMF (Church Ministry Fund) \$17,653.52 (monthly budgeted \$27,083.00)

Special Offerings, October: Faith Promise: \$2,223.00

Ministry Shares: \$309.00 (total received through Oct.:
\$8,721.98, annual budget: \$22, 800.00)

Home Missions: \$546.00

Beautiful Day: \$40.00

Leadership Summit: \$1,749.50

San Jose Christian School: \$1,308.00

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, December 12, 6 pm: Dinner with the families of GEMS and Cadets

Monday, December 24, 6 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 31: New Year’s Eve Worship Service

Our Church Family

Please pray for these personal needs:

* **Charlie B., Irvin D., Rein G., Rich M. and Cobe R.:** Please pray for these members of our church family who have continuing health problems. Remember these friends with your cards and visits: they appreciate your thoughtfulness.

* **Jerry V.,** Carol V.'s brother-in law: Please continue to pray for Jerry and his family as they consider future treatments for Jerry's cancer.

* **Robin B.'s father, Wendell S.:** Please pray for him as he experiences trouble with his health.

* **Pastor Don Hammond's wife, Norma,** is on a three month chemo treatment plan for Multiple-Myeloma. Then the doctors will evaluate her condition as to further treatment. Please pray for both Pastor Don and Norma as they go through this very uncertain time. 5472 Laura Dr., San Jose, 95124

* **Linda H.** (mother of Jennifer C.): The results from the October 6 CAT scan were not good. Soon they should know what chemo/radiation treatment they will schedule. Please pray for Linda and her family as they go through this most difficult and trying time.

We extend our Christian sympathy to John V. in the loss of his wife, Johanna V. Johanna died on Friday, November 16; a memorial service was held at our church on Tuesday, November 20. Please pray for comfort and peace for John as he mourns and grieves the loss of his wife of over 50 years.

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San Jose Christian School invites everyone to their annual band and choir Christmas Concert this Friday, November 30, 7:30 pm at Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos, 16575 Shannon Road, Los Gatos, 95032. Join us for a night of Christmas celebration, musical talent, and community.

Denominational News

CRWRC: Cyclone Sidr hit south central Bangladesh with a tidal surge of over 15 feet on Nov.15. More than 3,000 persons were killed and the survivors are in urgent need of food, blankets, clothing and other essentials. CRWRC's Dhaka, Bangladesh office is providing these life essentials, but more is needed. Please give generously. Mark your check "Bangladesh Floods 2007," and mail to CRWRC, 2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49560 or call 800-55-CRWRC.

CRWRC: World AIDS Day is Dec.1st. On Dec. 2nd CRWRC will launch its two-year Embrace AIDS campaign to raise money, awareness and advocacy for people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS. Let's join hands and commit to Embrace AIDS together. For more information about CRWRC's AIDS work and the Embrace AIDS campaign, visit www.embraceaids.org.

Church News and Announcements

Adult Sunday School continues today: "To Worship More Deeply": This fall the adult education program is exploring the topic of worship. We are learning how to participate in worship in a way that is full, deep, and satisfying. **Please join us TODAY at 11:00 am in the Fireside Room.** All are invited and encouraged to attend. Betsy Meester is leading the session today.

Childcare available during Adult Sunday School: Bring your child, age three through elementary school to the tri-rooms for Sunday School. Sandy Ammerman welcomes your child during this time- then go and enjoy "To Worship More Deeply".

Paul V. and Justine S. will be united in holy matrimony on Saturday, December 1 at 11:00 am. Friends of the congregation are invited to attend the ceremony here at our church.

GEMS Girls Club will meet this Saturday, Dec. 1 (2-4:30 pm) at the home of Tonya and Anna M. We will be working on our Baking Badge and will prepare crafts to sell next Sunday, December 2. **On December 2 during our morning worship service** GEMS will offer their praise: "Abba, I belong to You". All GEMS, please plan to attend! Please RSVP to Grace.

Please come and welcome our community families from GEMS and Cadets: Mark your calendars now and plan to come to the **Christmas Dinner and Party on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00pm.** If you have a special member of GEMS or Cadets that you are praying for, this would be a great opportunity to meet and welcome them and their families.

Please note! Plan now to attend our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** (December 24 at 6 pm) and our **New Year's Eve Worship Service** (December 31, time TBD).

Interested in joining our prayer chain? It's easy to join our Google Prayer List: please contact Mavis M. Those who do not have internet access, please have a contact person who does, to let you know of an emergency, prayer request or concern in our church family.

Church Bulletin: Please have any bulletin announcements for next Sunday's bulletin into the office this week by **Thursday evening**, at the latest. If you wish to email your announcements, please send them to Grace M.

If you miss a Sunday worship service or want to listen to the service again, CDs of our morning worship services are now available from the sound booth and podcasts are available on our church website. Current and archived bulletins are also online at www.sjcr.org.

The December Prayer Guides and the **December/January/February "Our Daily Bread"** devotionals are available in the information racks. Please pick up your copies.

Opportunities for Service and Ministry

The City Team Food Barrels are here and will be here until Christmas for your non perishable food and new, unwrapped Christmas gifts. Thank you for your support of our neighbors!

Urgent need! Hospitality Staff for GEMS and Cadets: We need a few adults to be part of our Hospitality Staff on Wednesday evenings when our GEMS and Cadets meet here at church. Your duties will be to arrive at 6:45 and supervise outdoor play until 7:10, bring or arrange for someone else to bring a light snack and drinks for 40, set up the snacks for the kids and leaders, and then to supervise outside play again from 8:20 until 8:40. There are 12 meetings remaining in this season, so if we get four volunteers you will only have to serve three times. Please help us! Contact Grace M.

Pray for GEMS and Cadets: Thanks to all for taking a GEMS or Cadets magnet and for praying for our Wednesday evening clubs. We still have just a few magnets left- please contact Grace M. if you would like to be one of our prayer partners and supporters. Thank you for supporting our Wednesday evening ministry for boys and girls! *You will have an opportunity to meet our GEMS and Cadets at our Christmas dinner and party on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00 pm.*

Small group training sessions will begin next Sunday: We are beginning the process of organizing small groups in our congregation for the purpose of studying God's word together and building community. Pastor Brad is looking for individuals who are willing to help with this by leading a group or by opening up their homes. If you are interested in serving our church in this way you will receive several training sessions on the following Sundays: *December 2, 9, and 16 at 4:30-5:45pm.* Please prayerfully consider how you can help, and contact Pastor Brad if you are interested or would like more information: Pastor Brad's cellphone- 408.410.2581 or email- brad@sjcrc.org.

Family Shelter Breakfast: Volunteers are needed for the January 12 breakfast. Thank you to all for your faithfulness for serving in the past. This is a great ministry.....we would like to see some new volunteers as well!

Volunteer Schedules: The schedules for November and December are in your mail files in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your copy today.

Stephen's Ministry- all meetings at 7 pm (contact Brenda L.):

- Training Classes:

Monday, Dec. 3: Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care: Part 1

Monday, Dec. 17: Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care: Part 2

- Peer Supervision: Wednesdays, Nov. 28 and Dec. 12 at Church of the Chimes



Stories for our Advent Worship

The Advent season begins this year on December 2nd. The Worship & Arts team is planning the services to include stories around four different themes for the four Sundays of Advent. Listening to each other's faith stories is an important aspect of faith formation. As Tom Long wrote in his book *Testimony*, "In church we are given words and ways of living that we would never dream of otherwise, not just church words..., but words and ways of living that shape our pilgrimage everyday and in every place."

Would you be willing to share your personal story? We'd like to have one person each Sunday tell their story about the theme that week. AND, we'd like to create a little booklet with all the stories that people contribute.

The themes are below. To contribute a story, please give or tell it to Mavis Moon via phone, email or in person. We hope this will be a very meaningful Advent season and, if we get enough stories to make a booklet, it will be a wonderful legacy we can enjoy and share.

Hope – Tell us about a time when you faced a particularly difficult time but through God's grace were able to have hope.

Joy – Tell us about the joy of knowing that you belong to God. This may be a conversion story, or of a particular time when you claimed faith as truly your own.

Love – Tell us about a time of experiencing the love of God through the ministry of other people.

Peace – Tell us about your desire for peace. Is there some place in the world, the city or in life for which you especially long for peace?

