

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 this morning.

Pastor Al Helder will be preaching for us today,

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors!

The Second Sunday of Advent: December 10, 2006

Advent Worship and Praise

Prelude: Our Time of Preparing for Worship

Welcome / Call to Worship (Psalm 66:1-4)

Greetings

Songs of Praise: *Meekness and Majesty*

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

What Child is This?: Tonya M., Aaron and Anna S.

Advent Candle Reading and Lighting: Aaron and Anna S.

Briana and Cassidy L.

Song of Celebration: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Advent Confession / Reconciliation

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession in unison

Lord God, we are distressed almost daily by the news of terrorist attacks, of racial animosities, of religious hatreds, of nations rising against nation, of abuses of human rights, and of crimes against people. During this season in which we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, we pray that wars will cease and that your God-given peace may prevail. Lord, empower us to be imitators of you. Forgive us for failing to be peacemakers. Holy Spirit, we pray that you will enable us to be people who bring good news, good will, and reconciliation. Hear us, for Jesus’ sake, amen.

Response: *O Holy Child of Bethlehem*

Advent Offerings of Prayer and Gifts

Congregational Prayer

Children ages 3 through grade 6 may leave us for “Kid’s Life”

Litany of Gifts:

Leader: People of God, celebrate the gifts that enrich our lives!

People: Breath and food, caring people and gentle words, music and colors.

Leader: Celebrate God who is the Giver.

People: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.

Leader: Many of God's gifts surprise us:

People: Like the hug of a child, words of encouragement, bright colored blooms from gray buds.

Leader: Many of God's gifts fulfill us:

People: New vocational opportunities, courage to stand up for justice, words that say, "I love you."

Leader: Many of God's gifts change us:

People: Hope when despair rules, forgiveness when sin burdens, "Yes" when we expected "No."

Leader: Now let our common words thank God.

People: O God, Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for reaching out to us, touching and caring, loving and giving.

Leader: And let our lives thank God.

People: Help us, O God, more and more to become giving people, reaching out to those who lack, touching the lonely ones, caring for those who are troubled, living with all in joy and hope and peace, giving gifts of time and self and wealth.

Leader: In our giving we grow in God's image.

People: For God is a giver.

Leader: We become more like the people God made us to be.

People: For God created us for good.

Leader: In our giving, we become caring stewards for God.

People: Today, O God, consecrate our living & our giving. Amen!

Offering of Love and Gratitude: Church Ministry Fund

Special Offering: Ministry Shares

Advent Word from God

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15, 4:29-34

Message: ***The Way of Wisdom***

Prayer

Hymn: *You Had Left Your Throne*

Blessing

Closing Song: *Come Lord Jesus*

Postlude

If you are a first time visitor today, 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 Time” at 10:40.

Classes for children and youth meet at 11:00 am.

Next Sunday at SJCRC...

December 17, 9:30 am: Worship Service: Pastor Al Helder will be preaching; Madilyn H., daughter of Jeff and Rachelle H., will be baptized. Special Offering: Ministry Shares. Please join us for “Coffee Time” after the morning service. Classes for adults, children and youth: 11:00 am.

Church News and Events

Adult Sunday School: Pastor Al will not be able to meet with the Adult Sunday School Class this morning. Our last class with Al will be next Sunday. See you then.

Next Sunday Jeff H.'s father will join us to baptize his granddaughter, Madilyn H.. We look forward to our celebration of God's covenant together. Rev. H. is currently serving in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent: the Comings of Christ. We light the second, purple candle which symbolizes Christ's royalty: he is King and Creator of the universe and Lord of his people. The theme of our messages during Advent is "Dreams and Visions that Announce God Coming to Us". Today we will talk about Solomon's dream when he became king, and next week we will hear about Daniel's dream regarding how God would use world history to prepare the way for his Son. On December 24 we will have a Christmas Service in the morning, and we are invited to join with Communities of Hope for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 in the evening. Bring your friends for a special season of worship and Christmas music.

Today, December 10 at 5:30 pm: All-Church Potluck and Caroling Night. Please join us for this fun annual event. After a good meal together we will bring Christmas joy to our neighbors. Don't miss it!

Coffee Break Women's Bible Study meets this Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 10:00 am for their Christmas Potluck. Coffee Break resumes Wednesday, Jan. 10.

GEMS and Cadets meet this Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm for their Christmas Party. Boys and girls in grades one through six: please join us for a great time!

JJS and Sonlife Ice Skating: Saturday, December 16. We plan to leave church at 6:30 pm and return around 9:00 pm. Cost: \$14 (If we get a group of 20 or more it will be \$11). We will be skating in downtown San Jose across from Christmas in the Park.

Palo Alto CRC invites you to join them at the annual Palo Alto CRC Ice Skating Night on Saturday, December 30 from 5:30-7:30 pm. It is held at the Winter Lodge at 3009 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto (www.winterlodge.com). The cost is \$12 / skater and includes skate rental. People who come to watch the fun do not have to pay. Bring a snack to share: drinks will be provided. You are allowed to push little children in strollers on the ice. Call PACRC if you have questions: 650-493-1152.

Life in the Son: Please remember San Jose Christian School as its Fall Financial Drive continues to school families, the supporting church community, alumni, friends, and relatives of the school. Approximately \$45,000 of the \$85,000 goal has been raised for tuition assistance, endowment, and special projects. Please keep SJCS in you prayers as you plan your year-end giving. Continued thanks to this church for your generous and loyal support of Christian education.

Our Church Family

Please pray for these personal needs:

- * **Jeff B.:** We are thankful with Jeff, Estella and Brendan that they could worship with us recently. Jeff has completed his daily radiation and chemo treatments. Please pray that these treatments will be effective in destroying the cancer. Continue to pray for the Barckley Family.
- * **Charlie B., Irvin D., Bill G., Rein G. 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.
- * **Linda H.** (mother of Jennifer C.): Jennifer tells us that our prayers on behalf of her mother have been heard: Linda has regained a lot of strength and has been able to put on a little weight. Chemo treatments will begin next week. Thank you, congregation, for your prayers and support!
- * **Pastor Don H.'s wife, Norma:** Please pray for her as she continues her chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

Pray for our church. Please remember:

- our youth (JJs and Sonlife) as they spend time learning and having a great time together.
- our GEMS and Cadets: we continue our partnership with other churches and are seeing wonderful growth and enthusiasm.
- our Sunday children's groups: we experience good attendance and are thankful for a faithful staff.
- our men's and women's Bible studies
- our various teams as they seek God's direction for our church
- God's leading as the Pastoral Search Team continues the process of searching for a new Pastor for our church.

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.	Mark L.
C-F	Jake B.	Steve S.
G-Ki	Harvey V.	Dan M.
Ko-L	Steve B.	Bruce G.
M-O	Bryan P.	Doug B.
P-S	Pastor Al H.	Steve M.
T-Z	Randy M.	Gert B.

Council Officers: Bryan P., Council President
Harvey V., Vice President
Randy M., Clerk

To contact Pastor Al Helder: Please call his cell phone: (209) 614-5761 or the church office: (408) 266-4412 Email: PastorAl@sjcrc.org

From the Deacons

City Team has provided barrels in the entry of the church for the holiday season. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food, new toys, and clothing items to fill these barrels for those in need. Tags are provided on the barrels to label your toy or clothing gifts. Let's work together to fill up these barrels!

November, 2006: CMF (Church Ministry Fund) \$17,057.00
vs. a monthly budget of \$26,416.00
Special Offerings, Oct.: Faith Promise: \$430.00
San Jose Christian School: \$546.75
City Team Ministries: \$1,310.00
Habitat for Humanity: \$422.00

CRC Denominational News

From World Missions - This holiday season remember your missionaries! Send them a card or e-card. This is more than a festive greeting – it's a greatly appreciated dose of Christian encouragement and care. For more remote countries, an e-card is a great way to ensure your greetings will arrive before Christmas!

Our missionaries: Gary and Pam Van Veen and Family
SGO 12332
7990 15th Street East
Sarasota, FL 34243
Email: garyvanveen@fastmail.fm

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

Church Bulletin: Miss a service? Current and archived bulletins are online at www.sjrc.org. Please have any bulletin announcements for this coming Sunday into the office **this week by Thursday evening** at the latest.

San Jose Christian Reformed Church
5150 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124
Phone: 408-266-4412 Online: www.sjrc.org

Helping This Sunday, December 10

Greeters: Gert B., Pat V.
Ushers: Harv and Carol V.
Hospitality: Steve and Sally B.
Audio/Visual: Mike K. and Steve M.
Coffee: Claudio and Nancy H., Wendell and Patty K., Tina V.
Nursery: Patty K., Jennifer L., Jordan D.
Kids' Life: Tiffany B., Alexis S.

Helping Next Sunday, December 17

Greeters: Claudio and Nancy H.
Ushers: Bud and Agnes L.
Hospitality: Jake and Faye B.
Audio/Visual: Mavis M. and Scott F.
Coffee: Ed and Arlene D., Scott and Kathy F., Gert B.
Nursery: Liz F., Paul V., Ciki C.
Kids' Life: Paula G., Alexis S.

Schedule of Events: December 10 - 17, 2006

This Sunday:

9:30 am – Second Sunday of Advent: Worship Service
10:40 am – Coffee and Refreshments
11:00 am – Classes for Children and Youth
5:30 pm – All-Church Potluck and Caroling Night

Tuesday:

6:30 pm – Worship and Arts Ministry Team Meeting
7:30 pm – Council Meeting

Wednesday:

10:00 am – Coffee Break Women's Bible Study: Christmas Potluck
7:00 pm – GEMS and Cadets Christmas Party

Thursday:

7:30 pm – Praise Team
8:00 pm – Choir

Saturday:

8:00 am – Men's Life Bible Study

Next Sunday:

9:30 am – Third Sunday of Advent: Worship Service
10:40 am – Coffee and Refreshments
11:00 am – Classes for Children, Youth and Adults

*Overeaters Anonymous meets Mon., Tues. and Thurs. evenings
and Sat. mornings. Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tues. evenings.*

December 17th is our opportunity to meet our goal of fully supporting Denominational Ministry Shares this year!

But what are Denominational Ministry Shares anyway?

A Few Quick Facts

All groups within the CRC except the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) receive ministry shares. The percentage of agency annual budgets funded via ministry shares varies from less than four percent at Calvin College, where the funds are used to supply tuition reductions for students from CRC families, to more than 90 percent for certain pastoral ministries. Ministry shares are requested from organized churches based on the number of active adult confessing members. Annual contributions per member work out to less than \$1 per day.

Why It Matters

One of the advantages of the ministry share program is that funds are received from congregations at little or no administrative collection cost. To raise the same amount of money through the work of a typical fundraising group, one would expect to spend between \$3 million and \$4 million per year. Thanks to ministry shares, that money goes instead into ministry programs. Just under half of the CRC's annual gift income is derived via ministry shares.

Who gets ministry shares?

Ministry shares support the work of:

- The Back to God Hour
- Calvin College
- Calvin Theological Seminary
- CRC Publications
- Home Missions
- World Missions
- Denominational and synodical services
- Abuse Prevention
- Canadian Ministries
- Chaplaincy
- Disability Concerns
- Pastor-Church Relations
- Race Relations
- Social Justice & Hunger Action

How much should I give?

The formula is set by synod and works out to about \$280 a year for every adult member. That's about \$5 a week — less than the cost of a cup of coffee a day.

All-Church Christmas Dinner and Caroling Night Today, December 10 at 5:30 Please join us this evening!

**This is for everyone-
families, couples, singles,
young and old
and everyone in between!**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Families, please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert

Couples, please bring a main dish

Singles, please bring a salad or desert

Drinks, rolls, and tableware will be provided for you.

**Please come... Let's enjoy our time together
and spread Christmas Joy to our neighborhood!**

Sponsored by the Children's Ministries of our church:

Contact Grace Monsma (227-8721)

if you have any questions.