

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 Brad Smith is preaching for us this morning.
We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors!*

Sunday, December 23, 2007- 9:30 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent- Peace
Morning Worship

GATHERING

Organ Prelude: “The Worship of the Angelic Hosts”
Welcome / Greetings / Announcements: Elder Randy M.
We Greet One Another

PRAISING

Call to Worship: Pastor Brad Smith
Song: *“O Come, O Come, Immanuel”*
Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle: The M. Family
Prayer
Solo: Isaac V. *“O Holy Night”*
Faith Story- A Story of Peace: Mavis M.
Songs of Praise: *“Silent Night”*
“Breathe”
“He Came Down”

SHARING

Congregational Prayer
Song: *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”*
Offering: Church Ministry Fund
Special Offering: Crossroads Bible Institute (prison ministry)
Offertory: Aaron S. (piano) *“What Child Is This?”*
Deacon’s Prayer
Solo: Deb Underwood *“Jesus, Oh What a Beautiful Child”*
(Children ages 3 through grade 6 leave for “Kid’s Life”)

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING

Scripture Reading: John 14.25-29
Message: “Peace on Earth”
Prayer
Song of Response: *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

SENDING

Blessing
Doxology: *“Go Now in Peace”*
Postlude: Anna and Aaron S. *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

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. The classes for preschool through high school meet at 11:00.

Next Sunday at SJCRC

December 30, 9:30 AM: Morning Worship and Communion- Pastor Brad Smith will be preaching for us. Special offering: Calvary Rehabilitation Center. Please join us for coffee and refreshments after the morning service. No classes at 11:00 today.

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 V.	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	



Looking Ahead

Monday, December 24, 6 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
With Communities of Hope
Monday, December 31: 7:30 pm 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.

* **Alice K.** has suffered from a virus these last couple of weeks. Please pray for renewed strength and complete recovery for her.

* **Our Christian sympathy and love to Doug and Tiffany B.** and all Doug's family in the death of Doug's 90 year old grandmother, Catherine S., last week in Casper, Wyoming. A memorial service was held yesterday. Pray for all the family as they grieve the loss of a much loved mother and grandmother.

* **Our Christian sympathy and love to Harv and Carol V.** in the death of Carol's brother in law, Jerry V. Jerry passed away Wednesday morning, December 12, after suffering from cancer. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Crossroads Christian Reformed Church in San Marcos, CA. Please pray for all the family as they grieve the loss of their loving family member.

* **Our Christian sympathy and love to Tana and Tony G.** in the death of Tana's father early Tuesday morning, December 11, in New York. Please continue to pray for comfort for all the family as they grieve this loss in their lives; and now especially for those who will be caring for Tana's mother and helping her make decisions, both medical and financial.

* **Please pray for Jim U.** as he searches for employment; that all the necessary paperwork will be processed correctly and in a timely manner so he can apply for the work he is trained in, a phlebotomist. May the right opportunities be made available to him so he can again have gainful employment.

* **Sandy A.** left last Monday to work in Maine for the next several months where her family is. Please pray for Sandy in this adjustment and also for Randy and Alex while they stay in San Jose to complete work and school in preparation for their move.

* **Pastor Don H.'s wife, Norma,** is recovering from vertebroplasty surgery to help alleviate spinal pain. . Please pray for both Pastor Don and Norma as they go through this very uncertain time.

* **Linda H.** (mother of Jennifer C.): Linda continues her struggle with cancer. Please pray for Linda and her family as they go through this most difficult and trying time.

* **Several of our church family have lost loved ones** during this year and also extended family members in recent weeks. It is especially lonely and painful during the Christmas season when families often are together. Please pray for all who feel these losses.

* **Please pray for safe travel** for all those traveling during the Christmas and New Years Holidays.

* **From John V.:** I would like to thank you for your support after my accident and surgeries and then the death of my beloved wife for over fifty years. Your prayers, cards and encouragement during this difficult time have given me strength and I thank God for our church family, you are a blessing! In Christ, John V.

Church News and Announcements

Please check out the Community Pregnancy Center (CPC) CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIFE in the Social Hall. There are GIVING CARDS hanging on the tree and by choosing one and gifting to CPC, you could SAVE A LIFE. After making your gift, you are welcome to take a KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT (while supplies last) as CPC's gift to you.

The 2008 Proposed Budget is available in the entry. Please pick up a copy for your review.

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 at 7:30 pm).

Interested in joining our prayer chain? It's easy to join our Google Prayer List: please contact Mavis M. 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.

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

Please help us to canvass our immediate neighborhood for GEMS and Cadets. We would like to pass out flyers with information and invitations to our Wednesday evening kids' clubs over the holidays. You may do this in your own time frame, as long as flyers are passed out before the first meeting of 2008 on January 9. Please contact Pastor Brad or Grace M. for flyers and maps. Thank you!

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 9 regular meetings remaining in this season, so if we get three volunteers you will only have to serve three times. Please help us! Contact Grace M.

Family Shelter Breakfast: Four 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!

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

- Training Classes:

Monday, Jan. 7: Peer Supervision, Part Two and
How to Make a First Caring Call

-Peer Supervision:

Wednesdays, Jan. 9 and 23, 7 pm

From Your Finance Team

Dear SJCRC Congregation:

As the 2007 calendar year comes to a close, we are also in preparation in closing out our fiscal year. During this beautiful season, we should continually reflect on the many blessings we are to be thankful for from family, friendships, health, employment, and most importantly the Lord's gift of salvation through his Son Jesus Christ. It is also clear that the Lord continues to bless our church here in San Jose and the work we shall continue.

Currently the CMF (Church Ministry Fund), receipts with which we fund our ministry here and pay for all our expenses, liabilities, and obligations is on a pace to be short of budget by approximately 20%. The CMF is primarily funded with the offerings and contributions received weekly. It is only with your continued support that the SJCRC can fully meet its commitments to our membership and friends, the local community, staff, our international missionaries and relief efforts, and our denominational responsibilities. And for this, we are truly thankful for your faithfulness, financial support, and prayer.

It is also in this spirit that we are asking for your specific consideration during this opportunity for year end giving. Not only will your faithful gift help to make up this shortfall to our annually committed budget, it will also assist us in making a balanced financial transition from 2007 to 2008 as well as afford you one last opportunity to maximize your tax deductible contribution for 2007.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make good on our congregational commitment to this year's budget. These final 2 Sundays of December (23rd, & 30th) are your opportunities to help.

Your love, faithfulness, gifts, talents, and dedicated participation are a blessing and a testimonial in His service.

Thank you,
SJCRC Finance Team



Stories for our Advent Worship



Today, December 23, is the fourth and final Sunday in the Advent season. The Worship & Arts team has planned the Advent services to include stories around four different themes for the four Sundays of Advent.

Would you be willing to share your personal story? We are still accepting stories for our Faith Stories booklet that will be distributed on Dec. 24. We'd love to include your story!

The themes are below. To contribute a story, please give or tell it to Mavis M., email or in person. We hope this will be a very meaningful Advent season!

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?

Faith Stories for Advent Worship

A Story of Love

by Brenda D.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11

I have felt God's love evident many times in my life. Serving others is one of the ways I have felt His love present. Often times when opportunities of service come up, I am quick to volunteer but when the project arrives, I have some reservations of inadequacy and apathy. When God prods me forward I am always blessed by His love through ministry of other people. I always go into a service project with the mindset of how my work is going to help people, but I often walk away with feeling more blessed by the people that we are helping or those I work besides. As many of you know, John and I went on a mission trip with your support to the Dominican Republic last spring. We arrived in hopes of showing God's love to the poor and suffering, but left finding a deeper aspect of God's love that we had never experienced before.

Service opportunities do not have to be to another country they can be right in your own neighborhood. It was such a great outreach on the Beautiful Day that our church set up last month. I know that this opportunity opened our eyes to see that God's love can be experienced everywhere.

Serving breakfast at the San Jose Family Shelter is another way our church is making a difference and sharing God's love in our community. When the residents for the shelter ask where you are from and thank you for donating your time, God's love is shown to them and experienced through them. Through these opportunities we are able to share the love of Christ that God commands us to do in John 13:34, 35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." The recipient's love they pour out in gratitude makes serving such a desirable outreach in our world and in our own community. As a result we will be further blessed by God's love.

A Story of Joy

by Anna S. (age 9)

When I think of Joy, I think of singing joyful songs to the Lord. I think of clapping, dancing, and singing songs with lots of energy. Sometimes I like slow songs, too, but in the Bible it talks about people singing songs with lots of joy, with lots of happiness. They used trumpets, drums, flutes, and even tambourines - those kinds of instruments make me joyful.

A couple of weeks ago I learned a memory verse that's all about joyful singing, and since I like to make up songs, I made up a song to help me remember it:

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him with joyful songs;

Know that the Lord is God.

It is He who made us and we are his;

We are his people; the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

And his courts with praise.”

I like to look deep into songs because they help me to learn more about God, and I realize that God is Joy and he gives us joy. It really gives me joy at Christmas to think that he came to earth to save us. Isn't that something to sing about?

San Jose Christian Reformed Church
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Helping This Sunday, December 23

Greeter: Bruce and Robin B.

Ushers: Mark M. and Irene P.

Hospitality: Randy and Mavis M.

Audio/Visual: Mike K., Mavis M.

Coffee: Wendell and Patty K., Al and Tracie K., Willie K.

Nursery: Willie K., Zach M., Rochelle S.

Kids' Life: Rose S., Alexis S., (Diana B.- aide)

Helping Christmas Eve, December 24

Greeter: Steve and Sally B.

Ushers: Harv and Carol V.

Audio/Visual: Mavis M, Josef C.

Nursery: Willie K., Zach M., Rochelle S.

Helping Next Sunday, December 30

Greeter: Josef and Cecilia C.

Ushers: Anthony V. and Tina V.

Hospitality: Doug and Betty P

Audio/Visual: Randy A. and Scott F.

Coffee: Mark and Natalie L., Mike and Laura L.

Nursery: Laura L., Cory S., Anna S.

Kids' Life: Natalie L. and Harriet V.

Schedule of Events: December 23– December 30, 2007

Today:

9:30 am – Worship Service and Communion followed by coffee

11:00 am – Classes for jr. and sr. high school

Monday:

6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communities of Hope

Thursday:

7:30 pm – Praise Team

Next Sunday:

9:30 am – Worship Service and Communion followed by coffee