

# 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!*

***Advent and Christmas Worship, December 24, 2006***

## ***Advent Worship***

Prelude: Our time of preparation for worship.

Welcome / Call to Worship / Greetings

Advent Praise: “*Joy to the World*” (PH#337, 1-4)

“*How Great Our Joy!*” (HFG#182, vs. 1-4)

Advent Candle-lighting for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: The L. Family

Choir: “*Still, Still, Still*”

### **Litany of Joy:**

Reader: When God’s people heard his law read they wept, but Nehemiah’s call to them also comes to us:

“This day is holy to our Lord.

Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord

is our strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)

*Pastor: People of God, let us reflect on “the joy of the Lord.”*

*Our advent candle speaks of something different than happy feelings,*

*and it is far more than wealth, ease, security, or being problem free.*

*The joy of which we speak is God-given contentment*

*and the wonder of worship that comes from God’s presence*

*in the center of our lives.*

**People: We sing with the Psalmist:**

**“Then I will go to the altar of God,**

**to God, my joy and delight.**

**I will praise you with the lyre,**

**O God, my God!”** (Psalm 43:4)

Reader: The prophet understood the depth of this joy:

“Though the fig tree does not bud

and there are no grapes on the vines,

though the olive crop fails

and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the pen

and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the Lord,

I will be joyful in God my Savior.” (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

*Pastor: “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;*

*and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!*

*Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost...”*

**People: “Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.**

**Let the wicked forsake their ways**

**and the unrighteous their thoughts.**

**Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,**

**And to our God, for he will freely pardon...”**

*Pastor: “Then you will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;*

*the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you,*

*and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.”* (Isaiah 55: 1, 6-7, 12)

“*The Silent Night*” by Tracie K., organ; Eugene G., narration and solo

Congregation joins on verses 2 and 3 (HFG #195)

## ***Christmas Worship***

Lighting the Christ-candle: Corie S.

Reader: Luke 2:1-20

Solo: “*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*” - Debbie U.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Pastor: “The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

**People: on those living in the land of deep darkness**

**a light has dawned.**

Pastor: For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

**People: and the government will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called**

**Wonderful Counselor,**

**Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father,**

**Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Of the increase of his government and peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David’s throne

and over his kingdom,

**People: establishing and upholding it**

**with justice and righteousness**

**from that time on and forever.**

Pastor: The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

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

### **Wonderful Counselor**

A Christmas Meditation

Prayer

Song: “*Once in Royal David’s City*” (PH#346, vs. 1-3)

Deacon’s Prayer and Offering of Love and Commitment: Church Ministry Fund

Special Offering: San Jose Family Shelter

### **Mighty God**

Reading of John 1:1-5, 9-14

Song: “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” (PH#340, vs. 1, 3 and 4)

## Everlasting Father

Pastor: "Christ and the Father are One"

John 10:25-30

John 14:6-14

Song: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (PH#354, vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5)

Duet: "Ding Dong, Merrily on High / He Is Born"

Erika R. and Debbie U., vocals; Anna M., flute

## Prince of Peace

Reader: Let us fill our minds with thoughts of peace, for in Christ we have peace with God and peace with each other and all neighbors.  
"Love and faithfulness meet together;  
Righteousness and peace kiss each other.  
Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
And righteousness looks down from heaven." (Psalm 85:10-11)

Pastor: *The words of Jesus call to us today:*

*"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:25-27)*

**People: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** (John 16:33)

Reader: Jesus is our peace, and our source of peace:

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross." (Col. 1:20)

Pastor: *"And the God of peace, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7)*

**People: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."** (Col. 3:15)

Pastor: *"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all." (2 Thes. 3:16)*

Song: Hark, "The Herald Angels Sing" (PH#345, vs. 1-3)

Christmas Greetings:

Blessing

Closing Song: "My Peace"

Thank you to our readers for this morning's service:

Ken M., Eugene Guido, Brenda L. and Mark M.

***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. No classes at 11:00 am today.***

## Next Sunday at SJCRC...

**December 31, 9:30 am:** New Year's Eve Worship and Communion Service: Pastor Al Helder will be preaching; Special Offering: Calvary Rehab Center. Please join us for "Coffee Time" after the morning service. The children will present a Christmas drama and we will have a farewell celebration for Pastor Al and Sandy Helder. No 11:00 am classes next Sunday.

## Church News and Events

**Today we light the fourth, pink candle** which symbolizes our joy as we stand in awe of what Jesus did for us, joy that we feel as we worship him. We also light the final **white Christ Candle** to remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

**Candlelight Service tonight:** We have been invited to join with Communities of Hope for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 in the evening. Our choir will sing at this service. Please come with your family and friends to this special Christmas celebration.

**From Your Church Council:** In an ongoing effort to communicate the doings of the church council, the following are some highlights of the December 12 meeting: The council continues to focus on the need to establish priorities and to define the mission of the San Jose CRC. As a part of this, the council will be working on an internal restructuring, the purpose of which is to increase accountability, to establish continuity by training members in church governance, the duties of council members, and how to be more active in ministry. The vision of the council for the San Jose CRC has four main objectives: to reinvigorate small groups, to get at least 75% of the congregation passionately involved in at least one ministry, to develop a cohesive, passionate teaching ministry, and to develop cooperative ventures with other churches. The council gives special recognition to Claudio H. for his ongoing commitment and dedication to the breakfast program at the San Jose Family Shelter. This has given many members opportunity to become involved in meaningful community service.

**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](http://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 your 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 B. 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.): Linda continues with her chemo treatments. Please pray that they will be effective. Jennifer thanks the congregation for your prayers and support!
- \* **Pastor Don Hammond's wife, Norma:** Norma is responding to the chemotherapy treatment and has shown improvement. Continue to pray for Norma and Don.

### 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*

## CRC Denominational News

**CRWRC: Jesus came for us all!** Share the good news of His light in the darkest places of our world – in terror-stricken Darfur, in impoverished Bangladesh, in AIDS-ravaged Malawi and in nearly 30 other countries. Your Christmas offering for CRWRC will share the same love, hope and compassion God shows every Christmas Day with thousands in need. Please give generously, and a blessed Christmas to you and yours.

**Chaplaincy Ministries:** Please remember the three chaplains serving in Iraq this Christmas Season: In Soon Gho Hoagland, Doug Vrieland and Will Hensen. Pray for them, their families, and the men and women they minister to in Iraq. Remember all our servicemen and women who are serving, especially those in combat areas.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.sjcrc.org](http://www.sjcrc.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.sjcrc.org](http://www.sjcrc.org)**

**Helping Next Sunday, December 24**

***Greeters:*** Steve and Sally B.

***Ushers:*** Tina V., Anthony V.

***Hospitality:*** Randy and Mavis M.

***Audio/Visual:*** Randy A. and Josef C.

***Coffee:*** Mark and Natalie L., Steve and Joanne M., Henry B.

***Nursery:*** Lucille H., Dale B., Cory S.

***Kids' Life:*** Rose S., Robin B.

**Helping Next Sunday, December 31**

***Greeters:*** Russ and Sue S.

***Ushers:*** Case and Leigh Ann V.

***Hospitality:*** Bryan and Mary Ann Plug.

***Audio/Visual:*** Sean S. and Mavis M.

***Coffee:*** Mike and Tonya M., Randy and Mavis M., Pat V.

***Nursery:*** Willie K., Laura L., Briana L.

***Kids' Life:*** Alexis S.

**Schedule of Events: December 24 - 31, 2006**

***This Sunday:***

9:30 am – Advent and Christmas Worship Service

10:40 am – Coffee and Refreshments: no 11:00 classes.

6:00 pm – Candlelight Service with Communities of Hope

***Monday:***

*Merry Christmas!*

***Next Sunday:***

9:30 am – New Year's Eve: Worship and Communion Service

10:40 am – Coffee and Refreshments

with Christmas drama by the children and

farewell celebration for Pastor Al and Sandy

No 11:00 classes.

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