

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 2, 2007- 9:30 AM

1st Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship and Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

GATHERING

Prelude: Our Time of Preparation for Worship

Welcome / Greetings / Announcements: Elder Steve B.

We Greet One Another

PRAISING

Call to Worship- Psalm 146:3-6: Pastor Brad Smith

Opening Song of Praise: *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle: Laura Mae Douglass
“This Is Our God”

Faith Story- A Story of Hope

Songs of Praise: *“This Is Our God”*
“Trading My Sorrows”

SHARING

Congregational Prayer

GEMS Praise Offering: *“Abba, I Belong to You”*

Offering: Church Ministry Fund

Special Offering: Faith Promise

CRWRC Gift Catalogue

Deacon’s Prayer

(Children ages 3 through grade 6 leave for “Kid’s Life”)

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15.1-21

Message: “Abraham’s Amen”

Prayer

Song of Response: *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”*

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER

(We sing as people come forward to take the elements of Communion.)

All sing during The Lord’s Supper: *“In Christ Alone”*

“You’re Everything”

Prayer

SENDING

Blessing

Doxology: *“Everyday”*

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

Next Sunday at SJCRC

December 9, 9:30 AM: Morning Worship- Second Sunday of Advent. Pastor Brad Smith will be preaching for us. Special Offerings: Ministry Shares. Please join us for coffee and refreshments after the morning service. At 11:00 AM: Classes for all ages through high school.

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

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., 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.
- * **Rich M.** was in the hospital on Wednesday for surgery. Please pray for a full recovery for Rich.
- * **Rein G.** has been in the Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital for the past week and a half in isolation. He has suffered with pneumonia and a serious bacterial infection. Rein was to be released on Thursday and return to his home at the Hillview Convalescent Home in Morgan Hill. Please pray for a full recovery for Rein.
- * **Jerry V.,** Carol Vander Baan's brother-in law: Jerry is now receiving Hospice care to help manage his pain. Please continue to pray for Jerry and his family as they go through this difficult time.
- * **Robin B.'s father, Wendell S.:** We praise God with the family that he has recovered from his recent illness.
- * **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.
- * **Linda H.** (mother of Jennifer C.): The results from the October 6 CAT scan were not good. She has been having difficulty eating. Please pray for Linda and her family as they go through this most difficult and trying time.
- * **Marilyn P. of Communities of Hope,** who broke her wrist on the Beautiful Day river bed project, was to have surgery this past Wednesday. Pray for complete healing.
- * **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.
- * **Congratulations to Paul V. and Justine S.** who were united in holy matrimony yesterday in our church. Our church family wishes many blessings and love to you, Paul and Justine, in the years to come!
- * **To Our Church Family:** My family and I want to thank all the people who came to Amber's memorial service; all of you who sent cards, called us and continue to care with your support and your prayers. For all the loving care - thank you so much for just being there. We will never forget your kindness. God Bless your hearts, Sherrie S. and Family
- * **Missions News: from Missionaries James and Barbara Lee** - Their son Joshua Jae-Min Lee will be baptized today, Sunday, December 1, at the Oakdale Park CRC in Grand Rapids, MI. James will do the baptism.

Letter from Your Council

The council of SJCRC met on Tuesday, November 13, for its regular monthly meeting. As always, it was opened in prayer.

Council continued its devotions using "A New Kind of Christian" by Brian McLaren. We discussed some of the key points in chapters 9 to 12. Some of the key points that came out are that we can't expect seekers and new Christians to have the same life style as mature Christians, and that evangelism should be based on true relationships instead of developing relationships for the purpose of evangelism. In this case, one of the ideas was that we should count conversations instead of conversions. As always, the book generated a lot of discussion and reflection by council.

After devotions, council turned to the business of the night. It started with an accountability round table, where the members of council voiced their highlights and concerns. One of the discussion items was around Beautiful Day, and how the church was impacting the community we live in. Also discussed was the transition to our new worship leader, Rob C. Council also wants to highlight and thank Grace M. for filling in as worship leader for the last few years, and wish her the best as she gets to focus a little more on Children's Ministries.

The next area of discussion was the proposed 2008 budget. Fred Rypstra was kind enough to walk council through the work that the Finance team had done to put the budget together. It was very encouraging to hear that they had gotten requests back from many ministry teams this year. It resulted in a budget that was the work of many people in the church instead of just the finance team. While the budget was sent back to the finance team for some minor changes, council was very pleased with the end result and thankful for the effort and stewardship of the finance team.

Council discussed reports and motions from various committees, including facilities and finance. In addition, it authorized a small ad hoc committee to review the church's current IT requirements and to propose a strategy to guide us as we move forward. The work of the many committees is greatly appreciated.

Finally, as always, the council meeting was closed in prayer.

Denominational News

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 remote countries, an e-mail card is great way to ensure you're your greetings will arrive before Christmas! Addresses of all CRWM missionaries can be found in the back of your World Missions Calendar.

CRWRC: Yesterday was World AIDS Day. Today CRWRC launches "Embrace AIDS", a two-year campaign to raise money, grow awareness, fight for justice and show Christ's love by embracing those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Let's do it together. Let's Embrace AIDS. For more info about CRWRC's AIDS work and the campaign, visit www.embraceaids.org.

Church News and Announcements

Adult Sunday School continues today: "To Worship More Deeply": We have been exploring the topic of worship and 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.*

Childcare available during Adult Sunday School: Bring your child, age three through elementary school to the tri-rooms for Sunday School.

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).

San Jose Christian School's Fall Financial Drive continues throughout the month of December. Everyone in our church community should have received an informational mailing recently. The school wide theme this year is "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me". Our prayer is that you will give as God enables you to help us reach our \$100,000 goal. Your gift in any amount may be mailed directly to the school at 1300 Sheffield Ave, Campbell CA 95008. Thank you for your prayers and your faithful financial support of SJCS.

Looking for a temporary home: Sam Marquardt from Greenville, New York, is looking for a home for himself from January to June. Sam's future father-in-law is the pastor of Trinity CRC in Richfield Springs, New York. Sam and Rachel plan to get married in June, after he completes his training with the San Jose Police Department and she finishes college in New York. If you would be able to provide a temporary home for Sam, please contact Ken Prol, his future father-in-law, at revkenp@msn.com, or 518-673-2284, or Mavis Moon.

Interested in joining our prayer chain? It's easy to join our Google Prayer List: 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.sjrc.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

Special Christmas Opportunity for Service, Sharing and Giving: Tired of looking for a gift for people who have everything? Frustrated with looking for that gift that will make a difference? This morning the deacons will be distributing the CRWRC Gift Catalog from which you can choose that special gift for those who have everything and those who want a gift that will make a difference. You can give tree seedlings for Haiti, a goat for a family that has been displaced by war, a water purification system for a village in Africa, a doctor's visit to an AIDS orphan, and many other community services. You can use the order form in the catalog or order online and request gift cards for the recipients of your gift. Please consider how you can make service, sharing, and giving a part of your family's Christmas celebration.

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 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 at 227-8721.

Pray for GEMS and Cadets: Thanks to all for taking a GEMS or Cadets magnet and for praying for our Wednesday evening clubs. The Counselors appreciate the love and support of this entire congregation. *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 begin this 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@sjrc.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!

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: Wednesday, Dec. 12 at Church of the Chimes



Stories for our Advent Worship

The Advent season begins today, December 2nd. The Worship & Arts team has planned the Advent 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're planning to create a little booklet with all the stories that people contribute. We'd love to include yours!

The themes are below. To contribute a story, please give or tell it to Mavis M. 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?



San Jose Christian Reformed Church
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Pastor Brad Smith: 408.410.2581 (cell)
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Website: www.sjcrc.org

Helping This Sunday, December 2

Greeter: Mark M.

Ushers: Robin and Bruce B.

Hospitality: Steve and Sally B.

Audio/Visual: Mavis M., Bruce G.

Coffee: Ed and Arlene D., Scott and Kathy F., Henry B.

Nursery: Liz F., Jackie D., Rochelle S.

Kids' Life: Patty K., Sue S., Paula G.

Helping Next Sunday, December 9

Greeter: The Stryker Family

Ushers: Tom and Diana B.

Hospitality: Tom and Diana B.

Audio/Visual: Randy A., Tony G.

Coffee: Bruce and Paula G., Tana and Tony G., Norm B.

Nursery: Claudio H., Lisa V., Briana L.

Kids' Life: Tiffany B., Willie K., Betty P. (Bruce G.- aide)

Schedule of Events: December 2– December 9, 2007

This Sunday:

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

11:00 am – Adult Sunday School: "To Worship More Deeply"
and classes for all through high school

4:30-5:45 pm – Small Group Leadership Training Class

Monday:

7:00 pm – Stephen's Ministry Training Class

Tuesday:

7:00 pm – Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday:

10:00 am – Coffee Break Women's Bible Study

6:30 pm – Worship and Arts Ministry Team Meeting

7:15 pm – Staffing and Personal Team Meeting

Thursday:

7:30 pm – Praise Team

Saturday:

6:30 am – Family Shelter Breakfast

Next Sunday:

9:30 am – Worship Service followed by coffee

11:00 am – Classes for all through high school

4:30-5:45 pm – Small Group Leadership Training Class