



Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All God's People



**December 6, 2015
10:00 a.m. Worship
2nd Sunday of Advent**

***First time here?** We are happy to have you visit with us today and hope that your worship experience is blessed. Please pick up a free visitor bag in the narthex. All are invited for coffee and fellowship in Bowen Hall after the service.*

***Children with you?** Activity materials for young worshipers are in the entry way. Child care (2-3yrs) and Sunday School are provided during the service. Infants with a parent may enjoy our quiet room while listening to the service.*

***Assistance needed?** The ushers have large print bulletins and hearing devices for you.*

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

**One asterisk signifies the congregation stands if able.*

Throughout the service the bold type is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE *“Chorale Prelude - Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring”* *by J.S. Bach*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the red friendship pad and pass it along for the whole pew to sign.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope.

The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace.

Christ brought peace when he first came to us and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace". We light the candle of peace to remind us that through Jesus peace is found. (*light the candle of Peace*)

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place.

Let us celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

INTROIT

“Lift Up Your Heads”

Musica Sacra, c1778

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)*

Our mouths are filled with laughter, O God.

Our tongues are ready to shout for joy!

For you have done great things for us.

**The day foretold is coming when our deafened ears will hear a choir,
a heavenly host proclaiming peace!**

The One foretold is coming, whose newborn cry will pierce the darkness.

The Savior draws near! Let us worship God!

**HYMN #88*

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 1-2 and 6-7) Arr. John Weaver

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (responsively)*

Eddie Seamans

Loving God, prepare us to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus.

As we turn and walk the road toward your outstretched arms, remove from our lives those powers and forces that have caused us to do evil rather than good, to hate rather than love, to hold resentment close to us rather than the power of your forgiveness, to seek amusement rather than fulfillment.

Bring down the high places that obstruct your path and fill in the valleys that hinder our coming to you. Forgive us Lord for having wandered away from you and help us to walk each day in the direction you would have us go. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

**WORDS OF AFFIRMATION (responsively)*

By the coming of Jesus, our Compassionate God gave us strength in the midst of our weakness, peace in the midst of our conflicts, and light in the midst of our darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#581

Gloria Patri

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

**DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Received by Session, November 24th and December 6th, 2015

Presentation by Elder: Harold (Pete) Crane, Charlotte Finney, Ron and Mary Hansen, Don McElroy, Nate Scoble, and Brooke Smith,

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Apostles Creed (traditional)

Vows

- a) Do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ?
- b) Do you renounce evil and affirm your reliance on God's grace?
- c) Do you intend to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church?

PRAYER FOR NEW MEMBERS (in unison)

Merciful God, you call us by name and promise to each of us your constant love. Watch over your beloved ones who are our new members. Help them feel a deeper sense of your love through joining our church family. Deepen their understanding of the gospel; strengthen their commitment to follow the way of Christ, and keep them in the shelter of your wings for the benefit of the whole world. We praise and thank you for inspiring this group through your Holy Spirit to join us as we work to reach out with care to all your creation. May their lives witness to your love and bring them to the fullness of your peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME (in unison)

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Hymn #458 (Verse 2)

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

*Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Malachi 3: 1-4

This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“Somebody Build A Manger”

by Joel Raney

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1: 68-79

This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!

SERMON:

“You Call This Good News?”

Rev. Dr Cindy Alloway

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Loving God, in many and various ways you have visited and redeemed your people - finally sending to us your Son, Jesus. We thank you Lord God for sending him to us: As one of us he came, at first a tender infant, then a child, a youth, and an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced, he wept with those who wept. To the despairing he spoke a word of hope, to the sick he gave healing, to the rejected he was a friend. And yet he was betrayed and nailed to a cross. But you, O God, lifted him from the grave and restored him to life that he might be with us and we with him - alive - for evermore.

Therefore with all the saints and with the angels in heaven we praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Loving God, we ask that you send the Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts that we are about to receive. May this bread be for us the body and this cup the blessing from Christ Jesus our Lord. Give us the mind of Christ as we partake of this sacrament of life and hope that we may follow him faithfully as we await his return in glory. We ask these things in the name of Christ who taught us to pray saying:

(The Lord's Prayer. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS (please hold the bread until all are served so we may eat together as a church family. Gluten-free wafers are in each plate. You may drink the cup as it is passed symbolizing your individual relationship with God. Both juice and wine are offered. The wine is red.)

HYMN#527 "Eat the Bread, Drink this Cup" (sing as communion is served)

COMMUNION CLOSING PRAYER (responsively)

We give you thanks, O Lord, for receiving us at your table. We thank you for the life you have bestowed on us. And for this world you created and are still creating. And we thank you for coming to us as Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. Help us fully answer your call to be the Church, to celebrate your presence, to live with respect of creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice, and to share your abundant love near and far.

We know you are with us now and beyond death. We are not alone. Thanks be to you for Advent and for creating this time when we stop the busyness long enough to remember how deeply you love each one of us. Empower us to use that deep love for others who still do not know that nothing can separate them from your Love.

Amen

HYMN "Christ Be With Us" Tune: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D

1) Christ be with us, Christ behind us,
Christ before us — all around!
Christ in busy, noisy cities,
Christ where hardly rings a sound.
Jesus, you're our Lord and Savior;
On your love we can depend.
Help us see your presence clearly
In each stranger and each friend.

2) Christ in lines of people fleeing,
Praying that a war will cease;
Christ in battered women's shelters,
Looking for a place of peace.
Christ with people sick or dying,
Loved ones trying hard to cope
In this world of so much suffering,
Christ, you give your people hope.

3) Christ with all who keep on struggling,
Helping others to be free;
Christ with churches working, searching
For a greater unity;
Christ, in bread and wine, be with us,
Giving strength for each new day
In this world of daily crosses,
Be our joyful, living Way.

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BENEDICTION

Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ - and may God richly bless you in this time of waiting - may the love of Christ fill your hearts with hope, - and the Spirit sustain you and guide you day by day, both now and forevermore. **Amen**

POSTLUDE

“Gloria Patri (from the Magnificat)”

by J.S. Bach

Welcome Our New Members

Mary Hansen – Mary is a retired teacher and a retired Marriage and Family Counselor. Her hometown is Davenport, Iowa. She enjoys music and activities. She has two grown children, Kevin and Karin Kemmerer. She and Ron met at Oakmont. Mary is anxious to get involved in church activities especially Christian Education.

Ronald (Ron) Hansen – Ron is retired and was an investment counselor. His hometown is Carmel Valley, Ca. Ron has six grown children and has lived in several different places over the years. He now resides in Oakmont with his wife, Mary. He is interested in Fellowship, Membership, Finance and Administration.

Don McElroy – Don is retired from Federal Civil Services and the military. He is happy to come from the Baptist Church. He is a rancher, Reiki practitioner, massage therapist, black belt in martial arts, and enjoys singing in the choir and playing bells under the direction of his wife, Barbara.

Nathaniel (Nate) Scoble – Nate is an artist. He has several hometowns: Bennington, VT; Los Angeles, CA; Santa Cruz, CA and Santa Rosa, CA. His personal interests are drawing, painting, and music. He became interested in the Church of the Roses through his mother, Ba Hoff.

Charlotte Finney – Charlotte comes to us from the Methodist church. She grew up in St. Louis, attended Iowa State and also attended college in Colorado, majoring in Economics and Business. She has been working as a bookkeeper and a pet sitter. She is married and has two grown children who live nearby.

Brooke Smith – Brooke is the son of Brian Smith. He has been volunteering for our church in recent years, landscaping and making coffee and setting up for the Fellowship hour.

Harold Crane – Harold’s nickname is Pete. He was introduced to the church by his friend, Julie Marquette, and now we are welcoming him into our church. He resides at Spring Lake Village. His interests include sports and crafts.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include in your prayers

Those mourning the loss of a friend or family member

- ❖ Please pray for Julie Bright's family as they mourn her father's passing.
- ❖ Please pray for the family of Steve Cairns who passed away on October 3rd.

Please pray for those facing health issues

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| John Baker | Sam Imbimbo | Albert Reil |
| Judy Bello | Jim Chestnut* | Alan Reil |
| Dan Boland (<i>Kathryn Fenner's friend</i>) | The Conley Family * (*Friends of the Fenners) | Pamela Sage |
| Cindy Goede | Chris Hilen | Carole Somer |
| Krissy Healy | Ron Kram | Vera Patten |
| Jim Mason | Marie Patchin | |

Those serving in our military

Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, US Navy Jason Imbimbo, Coast Guard Lt. Ian Alloway Culver, Lt. Col. David Trowbridge, M.D. is stationed at the Joint Air Force Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska and serves as a Cardiologist with the Alaska Native Medical Center.

Liturgist: Jackie Spahr



Flowers are given by Pastor Cindy in celebration of her second anniversary as Pastor at Church of the Roses.

Presbyterian Church of the Roses
 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
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 10 am – 2 pm, Fridays
 Phone: 707-542-4272 Fax: 707-542-5109

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Alloway, *Pastor*
 Barbara McElroy, *Director of Music*
 Althea Wright, *Accompanist*
 Cindy Larson, *Business Administrator*
 Ruth Canniff, *Administrative Assistant*
 Susan Jenkins, *Rosebud Preschool Director*
 Eddie Seamans, *Director of Youth Activities*
 Email: office@churchroses.org
 For more information visit
www.churchoftheroses.org
 Music & Video License numbers:
 CCLI#1153510 & CVLI#503696701

Four Church choirs will perform

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“ONE INCREDIBLE MOMENT”

by Tom Fettke & Max Lucado

DEC. 18th 7:30 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran
 DEC. 19th 7:30 pm at First United Methodist
 DEC. 20th 3:00 pm at Church of the Roses



*Delivery to Shut-ins
 of Special Poinsettias*

December 13th after worship

These poinsettias will be in the library
 for Deacons to pick up
 and deliver to shut-ins. *Thank you!*