

Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All God's People



*Womb-fresh Baby God
In a hallowed manger
Holding fresh hay for you
A place to lay your head
Where warmth and sustenance
Are offered to your creatures
In ordinary time
On Christmas Day,
This is your birthing place.*

(from "In Ordinary Time" by Jane Cocke Perdue)

December 25, 2022 | Worship 10 am Christmas Day

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

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

**One asterisk signifies the congregation stands if able.
The **bold type** is spoken by the congregation.*

PRELUDE

"Jesus Bambino"

Petra A. Yon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

God is the shining star in every dark sky,

The kindness in every embrace,

The love in every gift given,

The joy in every new birth.

God's Son is the hope in every deep sigh,

The sparkle in the angels' song,

The peace in every night's rest,

The delight in every carol sung.

On this Christmas Morning

Let us worship God!

*HYMN #146

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

P.Cantiones, 1582; arr. E. MacMillan

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (in unison)

Almighty God, forgive us for shaping the Christmas season into a commercially driven spending spree - in contrast to what happened

at Bethlehem in simple and humble surroundings. Forgive us when we forget the simplicity of your love and make our faith too complicated. Forgive us, O God and help us grasp anew the wonder and the joy of the birth of Christ. Help us understand that the most precious gifts of all are not those which are credit card-costly, but those which arise from Christ-centered lives. Even when we do temporarily forget the true reason for the Christmas season and find our attention drawn to other than Jesus, we thank you that Jesus does not do that to us. Open our hearts to your presence not just today, but every day. Amen

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION (responsively)

Our God of all ages showed boundless love for all people and shattered the power of darkness through the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Through the life and light of hope in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 "Gloria Patri" Henry W. Greatorex

CALL FOR OFFERING Norm Smith

OFFERTORY *"The Shepherds at the Manger"* Franz Liszt

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #462 PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison) *"I Love to Tell the Story"*
William G. Fischer

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do. I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 Norm Smith

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(responsively)*

O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. This Christmas, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal with your love child, that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising our Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Hope of all the Nations, Jesus Christ, our Messiah and newborn Savior.

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room.

Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us, so that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace.

We lift up to you, Abba, Father, our prayers of intercession: for all who are suffering, and caught up in wars, for all who are lost and sorrowful, for all who are confused, lonely, and alienated, and for all who are fearful this day. *(Silent intercessions)*

Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, healing, comfort and the fullness of life as your daughters and sons. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN #134

"Joy to the World!"

George F. Handel

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah Chorus"

George F. Handel

PASTOR: *Rev. Dr Cindy Alloway* LITURGIST: Norm Smith

MUSIC: *Carol Menke & Althea Wright*

AUDIO VISUAL TECHNOLOGY TEAM : *Phil Goede, Norm Smith, Jonathan Parnell, and Nico Wycoff*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES 2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa, Ca 95405

Office Hours: Mondays 10am-2 pm, Tues./Wed. 9am-3pm, Thursdays 9am-12pm

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PRAYER REQUESTS- *Please include in your prayers*

Those mourning the death of their loved ones

*The family and friends of AnnaLeigh(Ellie) Sage, Pamela Sage's daughter as they mourn her death on Nov. 19th 2022

*The family and friends of Barbera Kearns as they mourn her death Oct. 14th, 2022

*The family of Kay Young as they mourn her death on Oct. 19th, 2022

*The family of Dolores Borchers as they mourn her death on Oct. 17th, 2022

Those with health issues

Darren Adams

Donald Adams

Jeanette Bauer

Bill Beaumont

Barbara Blinn

Patrick Butler

Peggy Call

Leslie Colby

Marjorie Cortez

Doreen Cowden

Pat Currier

Eldon Davis

Toni Drucker

Robert Flandermeyer

Wendy Galde

Cathy Guy

Michele Hare

Phil Henry

Mary Lou Hensley

Werner Hoehenrieder

Brittany Hunt

Maryann Iodence

Jennifer

Rusty Jump

Carolyn Kenworthy

Margret Kram

Vivian Mazeski

Marilyn MacLean

Gene Michel

Jessica Morse

Lisa Nolan

Nancy Pinney

Howard Powers

Priscilla

Lynette Randerson

Sherry Rupp

Pamela Sage

Bob Simmons

Marie Slack

Pat Sneath

Dina Takahama

Bob Weber

Jill White

Roger White

Helen Wikle

Betty Witchey Ryer

Those serving in our military

James Kuntz (Sorani), US Navy on the USS Scranton. Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, Coast Guard Lt. Commander Ian Alloway Culver, Lt. Col. David Trowbridge, M.D. with the Air Force Reserve.

Maximum tax benefits depend on timing. Here's how to complete your 2022 gift to Church of the Roses by year end.

IMPORTANT: The last date to complete 2022 financial gifts is 2 pm Dec. 30, 2022.

- Gift checks **mailed** via U.S. Postal Service with postmark and check date on or before Dec. 31, 2022 will be counted for 2022 regardless of when they are received or deposited by Church of the Roses.
- Gift checks with check date Dec 31, 2022 and **hand-delivered** to the church office by 2:00 pm December 30th will be counted for 2022 regardless of when they are deposited by Church of the Roses.
- Checks dated December 31st, and **placed in the collection plate** on Sunday, January 1st, will be considered 2023 donations.

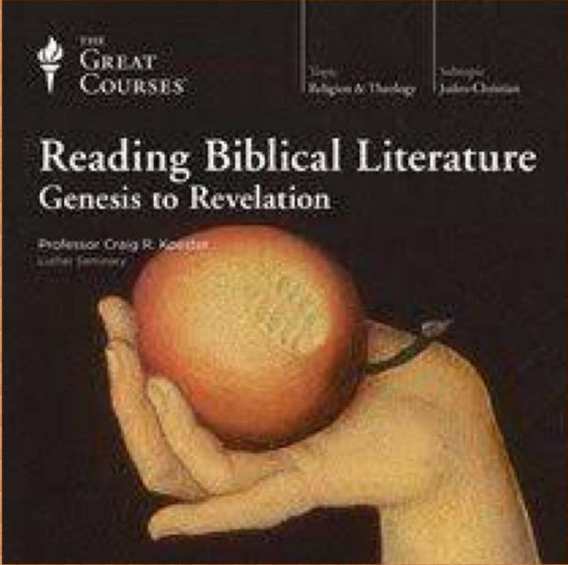
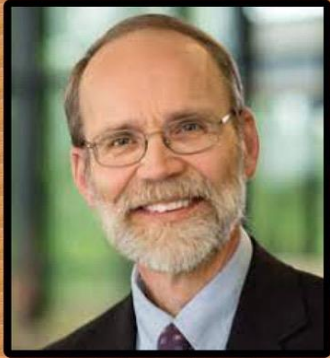


*“Flowers are given by
Norm Smith
in Thanksgiving for Christ’s Birth”*



Monday	12/26	Church Office Closed
Tuesday	12/27	8:30am Building & Grounds 10:00am PW Sewing

Wednesday	12/28	11:00pm	Staff Meets
Thursday	12/29	10:30am	Seniors Exercise Video/Rose Rm
Friday	12/30	Church office open from 11:00 till 2pm	

Prof. Craig Koester is back with another course on Scripture.

**Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.
January 9 to February 13**

Back by popular demand- Bible Study via Zoom!

Save the date:

Tues. 1/4/23 6:30am MHS Breakfast starts up, **URGENT! Volunteers needed!** Enjoy cooking breakfast? Join us to feed local high school students, M-F 6:30-9am

Sat. 1/7/23 5pm Sacred Space- This is an intimate and meditative service with acoustic guitar and an opportunity to reflect in community. Join the circle!

Sat. 1/14/23 10am Presbyterian Women's Group- enjoy coffee/snacks and camaraderie, women supporting women, join us as we study the Sabbath.

Thurs. 1/19/23 2:30pm BOOK CLUB- via Zoom- we are reading Caramelo.

Sat. 1/28/23 8:15am PCOR Men's Group- Men supporting Men- Join us for fellowship, food and inspiration.

These events are open to all- for more info email office@churchoftheroses.org

Featured Creche this week from Pastor Cindy Alloway :

The story for the creche: My mother used to live on the border of Mexico in McAllen, Texas. We enjoyed walking over the Rio Grande river and shopping in the stores in the sister city of McAllen called Reynosa. This is an example of some sacred Mexican art we found.