

The Shepherd's Staff

Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California



December 2011



Advent: Preparing for Christmas

Have you ever noticed as you read the Old Testament that the Israelites prepared themselves to worship God? Their preparation for worship was meant to focus themselves, mind and body, on God. The early Christian church adopted this idea of preparing for worship. The tradition carries on today. During Advent, we prepare our minds and bodies to celebrate Christ's birth, just as we do during Lent to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

This idea of preparation should be familiar to you. You make your home ready for company. You prepare for holidays like Christmas by cooking special dishes, decorating the house, and planning family activities.

During Advent we use certain rituals to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. We light the Advent candles, symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love. We sing "O Come, O Come, Emanuel." Scripture lessons on Advent Sundays recall the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. All these prepare us for worship and for the celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

As you prepare your homes to celebrate Christ's birth, don't forget to prepare your hearts also. Consider the Advent rituals with a new perspective. Listen to the Advent scripture lessons with new ears. What does Christ's coming mean to you? Consider what does hope, peace, joy, and love mean to you?

Advent is a season, a time to prepare your heart to welcome the Christ child. Preparation is a process that allows you to be ready to truly worship God as when we celebrate Christ's birth. Thank God for the great gift of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Lee

December Birthdays

Peggy Bakke	Dec 2
Bertha Rawlings	Dec 3
Linda Hamilton	Dec 4
Dorothy Susdorf	Dec 6
Doug Bridges	Dec 10
Noel White	Dec 18
Bob Stahl	Dec 25



DECEMBER 2011: SPECIAL DATES



Sunday, December 4

Thursday, December 8

Sunday, December 11

Wednesday, December 14

Wednesday, December 14

Saturday, December 17

Saturday, December 24

Sunday, December 25

First Sunday Potluck

9:00am Session Meeting

Alternative Christmas

9:00am Deacons Meeting

10:00am Women's Circle

11:10am Story Time

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Breakfast and Worship Service

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

There are various opportunities to serve the community this Christmas Season. Please take a moment to see where you can help this year.

Story Time:

On December 17th Esther needs your help to bring God's creation and Christ's birth to life. Through church members providing gifts for the children we will be having a Christmas party with games, Santa, cookie decorating, piñata, and more. A time of joy and celebration for the children but we cannot do it without your help. Please see Esther to sign-up to help in this growing project.

Also consider being a Christmas Angel to one of these children by purchasing a gift from their wish list.

Patty's Kids:

Every year Patty with the support of the church takes Christmas gifts to the farm workers children in the East Valley. This year she will be going on Christmas Sunday to give the gifts to the children during their Christmas worship service.

Please consider doing a little extra shopping this year and bringing in some toys for the children. A small toy can bring a huge smile to a child who might not otherwise receive any gift on Christmas morning.

Please bring your gifts to the church office or see Patty. Thank you and God bless you.

Women's Circle:

The women have selected a project to help with this Christmas season. They will be requesting donations of NEW socks and underwear for women and children to be given to Shelter from the Storm.

Alternative Christmas:

On December 11th we will be having Alternative Christmas, a way to give a gift in honor of someone and for those hard to shop for. In Fellowship Hall next Sunday you'll find many unique gift opportunities, including buying a share of materials for Habitat for Humanity, or providing money to help drill a well to supply water to an area with no clean drinking water.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord, make us mindful of your power and your glory as we pray for those in need.
Our Service Men & Women, Our Country & Our President
Pray for our Church at 12:00 noon daily

Death of a Loved One

Comfort for Butch and Eloise with the death of their son Barry Haltman.
Comfort and peace for Rena with the death of her friend Mike.

Recovery

Opal Eason
Dot's friend Pat Mannino – improving after kidney surgery
LaVida Warren – broken wrist
Linda Hamilton foot surgery
Joan – recovering from a bad fall
Maxine – continued healing and comfort
Vera continues to improve
Betty's sister Shirley
Stahl's grandson healing of an unexplained growth
JD Smith – cancer
Noel's friend Guy Patton – cancer in remission

Continuing Health Concerns

Diana Owens kidney transplant
Bertha's sister in law, Carol, recovering at home
Noel's friend Hans Berg
Peggy's daughter Kim struggling with circulation in her legs
Patty – Joe diagnosed with Huntington's Disease
Carol Francis' brother John suffering with Crohn's disease
Noel White's cousin, Kathy Findley - battling leukemia
Gail Prosser
Patty Valdez

Community and World Concerns

Pastor Noah and the Korean Church
Bertha's friend Craig looking for a job
Cathedral City police department
Health and safety of all our members and families
Our Marine's safety as he returns to active duty.

Prayer concerns in addition to those expressed during Sunday's worship service may be submitted on the prayer request cards in the pews or by contacting the church office. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Please Pray for the Mission Activities of the church as well

Neonatal unit blankets and baby items
Twenty-nine 29 Palms Marine Base Wounded Warrior
Well in the Desert
Scholarship for graduates of Cathedral City HS
VA & Stroke Centers
Clothes That Work
One Great Hour of Sharing
Alternative Christmas
School supplies for Sky Ridge Mobile Home Park Kids

Desert Summer Kids Feeding Program
Life Line subsidies
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Migrant Farm Workers – bedrolls and food
Shelter from the Storm
Ronald McDonald House
Veterans hospital Loma Linda
Baby kits for Haiti
2 Cents-a-Meal

December 2011 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

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| <p>1) Isaiah 40:1-11
God's coming to the exiles
Betty Meade</p> | <p>12) Ephesians 6:10-17
The armor of God against
the powers
Bob & Marge Stahl</p> | <p>22) Isaiah 9:2-7
A child is born for us
Chad & Billie Ackerson</p> |
| <p>2) Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
Righteousness and peace
Gerald & Joy Moss</p> | <p>13) Acts 3:17-4:4
Peter preaches about the
prophets
Casey Stelziede</p> | <p>23) Psalm 96
Let the earth be glad
Beth Alfred</p> |
| <p>3) 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Waiting for the day of God
Pat & Annette Patterson</p> | <p>14) Mark 9:9-13
Questions about Elijah
Dorothy Susdorf</p> | <p>24) Titus 2:11-14
The grace of God has ap-
peared
Martha Anderson</p> |
| <p>4) Mark 1:1-8
Second Sunday of Advent
Jay & Maryls Peck</p> | <p>15) 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
God's promise to David
Ervin & Vera Syfert</p> | <p>25) Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Christmas Day
Neal & Jean Angus</p> |
| <p>5) Acts 2:37-42
Baptism in the name of
Jesus
Wayne & Mary Price</p> | <p>16) Luke 1:46b-55
The Mighty One raises the
lowly
Patty Valdez</p> | <p>26) Isaiah 62:6-12
God comes to restore the
people
Peggy Bakke</p> |
| <p>6) Acts 11:1-18
John and Peter baptize
Gail Prosser</p> | <p>17) Romans 16:25-27
The mystery revealed in
Jesus Christ
Ray & Greta Venter</p> | <p>27) Psalm 97
Light springs up for the
righteous
Bob & Barbara Barrett</p> |
| <p>7) Malachi 2:10-3:1
The coming messenger
Nancy Pryor</p> | <p>18) Luke 1:26-38
Fourth Sunday of Advent
LaVida Warren</p> | <p>28) Titus 3:4-7
Saved through water and
the Spirit
Alma Boney</p> |
| <p>8) Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Righteousness and praise
flourish
Bertha Rawlings</p> | <p>19) 1 Samuel 1:1-18
Hannah is promised a
child
Noel White</p> | <p>29) Luke 2:1-7) 8-20
The birth of the Messiah
revealed to shepherds
Doug Bridges</p> |
| <p>9) Psalm 126
God does great things for
us
Rena Rodman</p> | <p>20) 1 Samuel 1:19-28
Hannah presents Samuel
to God
Eric & Lauren Williams</p> | <p>30) John 1:1-14
The Word become flesh
Brown Family</p> |
| <p>10) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Kept in faith until the com-
ing of Christ
Bill & Kay Sachs</p> | <p>21) Mark 11:1-11
Jesus enters Jerusalem
Evelyn Woods</p> | <p>31) Psalm 148
God's splendor is over
earth and heaven
Julee Collins</p> |
| <p>11) John 1:6-8, 19-28
Third Sunday of Advent
Larry & Cecile Shoot</p> | | |

Daily Readings for Advent 2011 Year B

Sunday, November 27 First Sunday of Advent	Is 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
Monday, November 28	Ps 79; Micah 4:1-5; Rev 15:1-8
Tuesday, November 29	Ps 79; Micah 4:6-13; Rev 18:1-10
Wednesday, November 30	Ps 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38
Thursday, December 1	Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thess 1:2-10
Friday, December 2	Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; Jer 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26
Saturday, December 3	Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; Ez 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33

Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday of Advent	Is 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8
Monday, December 5	Ps 27; Is 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42
Tuesday, December 6	Ps 27; Is 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18
Wednesday, December 7	Ps 27; Micah 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17
Thursday, December 8	Ps 126; Hab 2:1-5; Phil 3:7-11
Friday, December 9	Ps 126; Hab 3:2-6; Phil 3:12-16
Saturday, December 10	Ps 126; Hab 3 :13-19; Matt 21:28-32

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday of Advent	Is 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps 126; 1 Thes 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday, December 12	Ps 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Eph 6:10-17
Tuesday, December 13	Ps 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4
Wednesday, December 14	Ps 125; Mal 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13
Thursday, December 15	Ps 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Sam 6:1-11; Heb 1:1-4
Friday, December 16	Ps 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Sam 6:12-19; Heb 1:5-14
Saturday, December 17	Ps 89:1-4, 19-26; Jud 13:2-24; John 7:40-52

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Monday, December 19	Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam 1:1-18; Heb 9:1-14
Tuesday, December 20	Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam 1:19-28; Heb 8:1-13
Wednesday, December 21	Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11
Thursday, December 22	Ps 96; Zeph 3:8-13; Rom 10:5-13
Friday, December 23	Ps 96; Zeph 3:14-20; Rom 13:11-14

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Is 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day (Dawn)	Is 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day	Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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We're on the Web:
www.churchinthecove.org

Who We Are



We are a church family who care for each other and all of God's people. We celebrate worship each Sunday, thanking and praising God for the wonderful gifts generously given to us. We then go out into the world to share God's love with all we meet. We are strengthened for service and outreach through small group outreach activities and weekly Bible study. All are welcome to join us as we seek to glorify and serve our risen Lord.