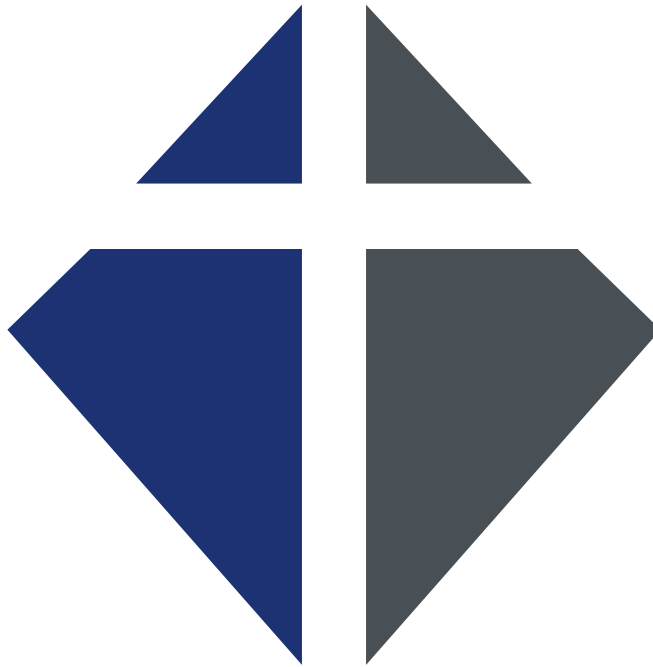


# SIERRA VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 15, 2024

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who  
are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to whoever will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers her  
welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

# **WELCOME TO SIERRA VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We are happy to have you with us to worship together! Please consider filling out the connection card in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate during the service.

## **Nursery**

Nursery is available for children ages 0-4 during the entire service and is located in Room C1, down the hallway. Children are also very welcome to remain with the parents in the worship.

## **Cry Room**

Cry room is available right next to the Sanctuary (Maroa Room), where you can hear the sermon on the speakers.

## **Adult Sunday School Class**

9:15 am, Maroa Room, led by Pastor Brandon

*“The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit”*

This is a class on Systematic Theology where we look at the biblical teaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. First, we will examine biblical teaching on who the Holy Spirit is. Then, we will take a close look at the work of the Spirit in every aspect of the Christian Life.

## **Children’s Sunday School Class**

9:15 am, Room C1, led by Kim Hickok and Anya Edmonds

This class is for children ages 4 to 9. We use “Show Me Jesus” curriculum by the Great Commission publications. The current study is on *“Pleasing God”*.

*If you would like to have a prayer request or praise included in the newsletter,  
please send to Mary Beth at [office@sierraviewpca.org](mailto:office@sierraviewpca.org)*

## Calendar & Upcoming Events

**Wednesday,  
December 18th**

**Men's Weekly Breakfast:** 6:30am at Huckleberry's (222 E Bullard Ave). Join men for a time of fellowship and study (currently studying Psalms). For more information, please contact Rick Moore.

**Tuesday,  
December 24th**

**Christmas Eve "Lessons and Carols" Service:** 5:30 pm. Join us for a time of worship and singing focused on the gospel and the birth of Christ. Invite your friends and family!

**January 5th**

**New Year's Breakfast:** Bring a dish to share as we enjoy a fellowship brunch during Sunday school hour. 9:15am

**January 28th**

**Women's Prayer:** Join Sierra View moms, grandmas and aunties as we seek the Lord together. Led by Holly Ford, hosted by Anya Edmonds. Please note that we will meet only once in January.

**Tuesdays at 6:45pm**  
at the Jameson's home  
**Fridays at 10:30am**  
at the Veldhuizen's home  
**Saturdays at 3:30pm**  
at the Edmonds' home

**Community Groups:** Join us for fellowship and for discussion of *Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions* by Tim Keller. Groups typically meet twice a month, but please check with the group leader for specific dates, especially during the holiday season.

## Welcome and Announcements

*Dennis Ferris*

## Advent Reading and Candle Lighting:

*Isaiah 42:1-7*

## Musical Prelude

## Call to Worship\*

*Psalm 98:1-4*

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**Congregation: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

Pastor: The Lord has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**Congregation: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.**

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

## Song of Adoration\*

*Hymn #203: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

## Prayer of Invocation\*

## Song of Praise:

*Red Book #41: Jesus, There's No One Like You*

## Song of Thanksgiving\*

*Hymn #225: Once in Royal David's City*

## **Profession of Faith**

*Heidelberg Catechism*

Q.36 How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

**A. He is our mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived.**

## **Old Testament Reading:**

*Genesis 49:8-12*

## **Confession of Sin:**

Great King, Son of God and Son of Man, we confess to you our great need. You offer us true joy, and yet we often seek to satisfy ourselves with pleasure. You offer us peace, and we chase after false comforts. You invite us into your glory, and we hide our faces and prefer the darkness. Forgive us for our shallowness and wandering, and draw us into your presence clothed in your righteousness. In Jesus name, Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

*Rev. Brandon J. Edmonds*

## **Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

## **Hymn of Preparation**

*Hymn #213: What Child Is This*

## Sermon Text

*Luke 2:21-38*

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## **Children's Message**

Following the children's message by Pastor Brandon, young elementary children have the option of joining the younger children in an age-appropriate lesson of songs, catechism, and bible stories. We heartily welcome children of all ages to remain in worship with their parents if preferred

**Sermon:**                    **“The Meaning of Christmas: The Prophet and the Prophetess”**

*Rev. Brandon Edmonds*

### **I. Presenting Jesus according to the Law**

### **II. The Prophetic Witnesses of Jesus**

### **III. The Purpose of Jesus' Life**

## **Closing Song**

*Red Book #51: The Bond of Love*

## **Benediction**

*Isaiah 60:1-3*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising!



# Notes

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Good News Clubs** - Please be in prayer for all the clubs here in the central valley, and for all the children who have taken part. Our SVPC team was at Kratt Elementary this fall for 8 weeks. Please pray that many children would sign up for the next session in the new year, and come to hear the Good News of what God has done for them in Jesus and that they would respond in faith! Our SVPC team (Mary Beal, Nancy Ferris, and Janet Moore) always appreciates your prayers. Thank you!
- **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** - Sierra View filled and prepared 19 shoeboxes for the children of the world. Thank you! Sherrill and Randy Berger.
- **Christmas Eve Service** - Tuesday, December 24th, 5:30 pm. We will continue our tradition of “Lessons and Carols”.
- **Online Giving is available through our website.**

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND SUPPORT

## MISSIONARIES (INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC)

**Ray & Michele Call (MTW, Belize):** [callmissionaries.org](http://callmissionaries.org)

**David & Dawn Diao (MTW, San Diego/Tijuana):** [beyondborderslife.org](http://beyondborderslife.org)

**Jack & Keiko Marshall (MTW, Japan)**

**Dan & Rebecca Gregoire (MTW, Slovakia):** [inslovakia.org](http://inslovakia.org)

**Mark & Raylene Casson (MNA-Metanoia Prison Ministry):** [metanoiaprisonministries.org/Mark-Casson](http://metanoiaprisonministries.org/Mark-Casson)

**Tim & Lori Mccracken (MNA-Metanoia Prison Ministry):** [metanoiaprisonministries.org/Tim-Mccracken](http://metanoiaprisonministries.org/Tim-Mccracken)

**Ken & Linda Morris (PCA Central Maine Mission, Lewiston):** [jordansbridge.org/Our-Staff/](http://jordansbridge.org/Our-Staff/)

## LOCAL MISSIONS

**Fresno Mission:** [fresnomission.org](http://fresnomission.org)

**Pregnancy Care Center (PCC):** [pregnancycenter.com](http://pregnancycenter.com)

**Every Neighborhood Partnership:** [Everyneighborhood.org](http://Everyneighborhood.org)

**Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF):** [cefnorcal.org/cvs](http://cefnorcal.org/cvs)

*For more information about the above, visit our website: [www.sierraviewpca.org](http://www.sierraviewpca.org)  
or contact Harry Jameson at [hjjameson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjjameson@sbcglobal.net)*

## OUR LEADERSHIP

**Pastor:** Rev. Brandon J. Edmonds

**Elders:** Dennis Ferris, Rick Moore,  
Tim Nehring, Emeritus

**Deacons:** Rob Carroll, Harry Jameson,  
Ron Hickok

**Worship Director:** Randy Berger

**Women's Ministry:** Nancy Ferris

**Global Outreach:** Harry Jameson

**Meal Coordinator:** Janice Jameson

**Office Manager:** Mary Beth Wold



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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