

Calvary Church
2343 Country Club Blvd.
Stockton, CA 95204

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Stockton, California
Permit No. 161

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2020

CALVARY PRESS

Phone: (209) 466-0221
Email: info@calvarystockton.church
Website: www.calvarystockton.church
Facebook: www.facebook.com/calvarystockton

We're a welcoming, casual and diverse church in the heart of Stockton's beautiful Country Club neighborhood. Calvary is a community where you'll be welcomed, whether you're new to faith or a life-long follower of Jesus.

“Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—how good God is. Blessed are you who run to Him.”- Psalm 34:8

Submitted By:
Charise Masada



Christmas Event Schedule

Free Professional Christmas Photos

December 6 from
11:30am – 1:30pm
(Come and go, sign up not required)

Free Christmas Kids Photos

December 13 at 11:00am
(Open to all from our neighborhood)

Christmas Kids Crafts

December 20 at 11:00am

School of Theology:

Theology of Gift

December 16 from
7:00 – 9:00pm

Christmas Eve Carol Service

December 24 from
5:00 – 6:00pm

New Years Worship Night and year of announcement

December 31 from 7:00 – 9:00pm

Advent Adventure

The anticipation of change comes with a flood of emotion. Nervousness and anxiety come from an uncertainty over what the change will bring, while excitement comes from the anticipation that the change will be a good one.

I'm a conqueror at heart. When a big change is on the horizon, it's all about adventure. The adventure of opportunities awaiting. The adventure of relationships to come. The adventure of new and uncharted territory.

The word advent captures the anticipation of change. There's a Methodist minister who captures the meaning well in a book about the Christmas season:

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before....What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed ... So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

There's very little in life I'm willing to wait for. The fast food doesn't get delivered fast enough. The two-day Amazon prime delivery is too slow. The traffic on I-5 is too long. As I said, I'm a conqueror at heart and I shouldn't have to wait to get the things I want now.

But there's nothing Biblical about that. The advent of Jesus is the anticipation of his coming. It's the waiting for something greater than our present circumstances. It's an adventure with Jesus, but an adventure marked by the peace and presence of Immanuel, God with us. That sounds like something worth waiting for.

Unfortunately, we fill this waiting with things far less important. Instead of treasuring the gift of Jesus at Christmas we treasure the trove of gifts we've received. Instead of worshipping God for his presence, we find our joy in the presents.

When Mary receives the news of her advent, she lifts her hands up to God in praise! "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

When the Shepherds hear the news, they glorified God. "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

The wise men let go of all their valuable presents and gave them away to Jesus. "They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

What if we chose this Christmas season to participate in a real advent? What if we put down the busyness of life and instead choose to focus on worshipping and waiting on God?

The presence of God with us is an adventure in the making. It's an adventure of waiting and relying on God.

It would be a shame to blink and miss something as personal as God with us. Don't let it only just brush by you.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Andrew

P.S. – Do you want to read more encouraging devotionals? Go to our website www.calvarystockton.church/blog for a new devotionals every Wednesday. It's a great way to get uplifted and to be filled with the Holy Spirit during the week!

Board Members Report

ICNU: "I SEE IN YOU." For each person to regularly tell others, "I see this greatness in you..."

December 13 - Free Christmas photos for every family.

Our fictitious name as Calvary Church was filed with San Joaquin County.

October Financials

Income: \$20,738.37
Expenses: \$19,835.15
Net: \$ 903.22

Deacon's Corner

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Operation Christmas Child – to share the love of Christ to the children and families receiving the gifts.
- Prayers and sympathy for the family of Maudellen Lowe.
- Continuous prayers for the healing of Joe's muscle pain and fatigue.
- Prayers for Benny Chun who has been diagnosed with brain cancer.
- Continuous prayers for Luis' cousin, Sam.
- Prayers for Sonsik Furukawa's injured shoulder.
- Prayers for Armand Espinoza's kidneys.
- Prayers over this country, that people will follow Jesus Christ.
- Prayers for God's blessings and guidance for Calvary and all Christian churches to be a light to the world and prayers for reopening of all churches.
- Prayers for Converge Church Planting Assessment Center.

Special Offerings

Thanksgiving

Allen & Myra Fong
Susie Hamamoto
Gary & Sandy Nakashima

In Memory of Rev. Saburo Masada

Linda, Kimio, & Akemi Bazett
(correction from last month's CP)
Steve & Barbie Fujinaka
John & Ruth Oda
Grace Sato

In Memory of Katie Komure (cont'd)

John & Ruth Oda
Bill, Genevieve, & Lylanne Peters
Gary & Joyce Sakakihara
Florence Sanguinetti
Grace Sato
Kurt Shigematsu

Operation Christmas Child

Janice Ishimaru

Kory & Cori Kambara
 Dean & Liane Komure
 Joyce Nakashima
 Dorothy Nishioka
 Tim & Hisako Smith
 Gene & Marcy Wong
 Ruth Yoneshige

Staff Appreciation

Linda Bazett
 Susie Hamamoto
 Janice Ishimaru
 Charise Masada
 Joan Matsune
 Sam & Sumiko Motoike
 Gary & Sandy Nakashima
 John & Kelly Nakashima
 Kathleen Salamon
 Tim & Hisako Smith
 Roy & Emily Takeuchi

In Memory of Miki Kagoshima

Grace Sato

In Memory of Edwin & Bernice Endow

Kurt Shigematsu

In Memory of Katie Komure

Aiko Aoyama
 Linda, Kimio, & Akemi Bazett
 Daisy Chew
 Steve & Barbie Fujinaka
 Ben & Lilly Hatanaka
 Susie Hamamoto
 Donald & Laura Inamasu
 Henry Isakari
 Shizuko Ishihara
 Mary Itaya
 Bradley & Gail Jones
 Howard & Ruby Kato
 George & Megumi Kitagawa
 Komure Family
 Richard & Janet Menor
 Sam & Sumi Motoike
 Miyako Murata
 Jerry & Karen Nakamura
 Gary & Sandy Nakashima

Nuiko Shimosaki
 Peter & Tatsumi Stearns
 Robert & Sally Tanaka
 Sam & Kinuyo Tanaka
 Gene & Marcy Wong
 Tomiko Yabemoto
 Craig & Barbara Yamada
 Keith & Judy Yamada
 Hachiro Yasumura
 Ted & Sue Yoneda
 Ruth Yoneshige
 George & Lily Yoshimi

Birthday Fund

Susie Hamamoto
 Ruth Yoneshige

The holiday season is upon us and we would like to express our appreciation for our hard-working church staff. If you would like to make a contribution toward a Christmas gift, please make your check payable to Calvary Church. Please mail it to Calvary Church, 2343 Country Club Blvd., Stockton, CA 95204 by December 13, 2020. Please clearly mark your check "Staff Christmas Gift".

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Service: 10:00am Prayer Night 6:00pm – 7:00pm	30	1	2 Pastor's Devotion Neighborhood Weekly Prayer Walk 2:00pm – 3:00pm	3 Weekly Email Newsletter	4 Office closed	5 Delivering Christmas Kids Crafts Invites: 10:30am – 2:30pm

6 Worship Service: 10:00am Free Family Christmas Photos: 11:30am – 1:30pm Prayer Night 6:00pm – 7:00pm	7	8	9 Pastor's Devotion Neighborhood Weekly Prayer Walk 2:00pm – 3:00pm	10 Weekly Email Newsletter	11 Office closed	12 Delivering Christmas Kids Crafts Invites: 10:30am – 2:30pm
13 Worship Service: 10:00am Free Christmas Kids Photos 11:00am Prayer Night 6:00pm – 7:00pm	14	15 CP Deadline	16 Pastor's Devotion Neighborhood Weekly Prayer Walk 2:00pm – 3:00pm School of Theology: 7:00pm – 9:00pm	17 Weekly Email Newsletter	18 Office closed	19
20 Worship Service: 10:00am Christmas Kids Crafts: 11:00am Prayer Night 6:00pm – 7:00pm	22 Office closed	23 Office closed	24 Office closed Christmas Eve Carol Service: 5:00pm – 6:00pm	25 Office closed Weekly Email Newsletter	26 Office closed	27
28 Worship Service: 10:00am Prayer Night 6:00pm – 7:00pm	29	30	31 CP Mailing Pastor's Devotion Neighborhood Weekly Prayer Walk 2:00pm – 3:00pm	1 Weekly Email Newsletter	2 Office closed	3

Church office hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm