



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, Rector
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, Curate
The Rev. Becky Williamson, Deacon

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
28 NOVEMBER 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 56

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE BLESSING AND LIGHTING
OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Officiant May God almighty, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify with the light of his blessing this Advent Wreath, and may he whose Second Coming in great power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People Amen.

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near.

People O come let us adore him. Alleluia!

Officiant We light the first candle on our Advent Wreath recalling the hope we have in Christ.

(The first candle is lighted.)

Officiant Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for sending your son Jesus, the one foretold by the prophets, the one on whom we place all our hope. Help us prepare our hearts for His coming again.

People To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls: In you, O God, we trust.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.*
Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.

People *Amen.*

THE TRISAGION

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People *Have mercy upon us.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the
armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immor-
tal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (33:14-16).

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to
the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause
a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteous-
ness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.
And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM (25:1-9) *Please respond at the half-verse*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to
shame; * let the treacherous be disap-
pointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion
and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions; * remember
me according to your love and for the
sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and
faithfulness * to those who keep his
covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (3:9-13).

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN 454

1. Jesus came, adored by angels,
came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for our redemption,
lowly came on earth to die:
Alleluia, alleluia!
came in deep humility.

2. Jesus comes again in mercy,
when our hearts are bowed with care:
Jesus comes again in answer
to our earnest heart-felt prayer;
Alleluia, alleluia!
comes to save us from despair.

3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
bringing news of sins forgiven;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
leading souls redeemed to heaven;
Alleluia, alleluia!
now the gate of death is riven.

4. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,
when the heavens shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory;
let us then our homage pay:
Alleluia, alleluia!
till the dawn of endless day.

THE GOSPEL *(Please stand if you are able)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (21:25-36).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM I) *The People may stand, sit, or kneel*

Deacon or other leader

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Jennifer our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Francis and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

We acknowledge the native peoples of the land on which we stand:

We pay our respects to the Pascua Yaqui and Pima tribes for their care of this land.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE *All stand*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

STEWARDSHIP MEDITATION *David Dunn*

AT THE OFFERTORY

David Thorne, b. 1950

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song. He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield. He comes, the broken heart to bind, the wounded soul to cure; and with the treasures of his grace enrich the humble poor. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name. Amen.

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,

People And of thine own have we given thee.

AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new

and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Together Our Father, who art in heaven...
...for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (to be said by all)

In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.
Together Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 600

1. O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power,
come with thy timeless judgment now
to match our present hour.

2. Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

3. Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

4. Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more
and desolation cease.

5. O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth,
let there be light again, and set
thy judgments in the earth.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Welcome You

A warm welcome to all and, if you are a visitor, we encourage you to make yourself known to your fellow worshippers and to our St. Francis clergy. If you would like to know more about the Parish please speak with Fr. Warren or Fr. Nelson after the service or get in touch with them via email at: frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org or nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org. Please take the time to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher, greeter, or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 9a	Morning Prayer, Chapel
Monday, 10a	Vestry Committee, St. Francis Room
Tuesday, 9a	Handbells, Loft
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	Rooted In Love, Parish Hall

Wednesday, 11:30a Deck The Halls
(See below)

Thursday, 10a Vestry, Conference Rm

Thursday, 2p Parish Choir, Loft

Saturday, 2p Christmas Card Party

Deck the Halls

You are invited to join us in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, December 1, at 11:30 AM, for a festive celebration to "Deck the Halls" of St. Francis. Wear your favorite Christmas sweaters or other festive attire and help us usher in the holiday spirit by enjoying some light food and making the campus of St. Francis holly and jolly!

We will have a "Do It Yourself" Christmas ornament activity where we invite you to make an ornament to be displayed on our Christmas tree in the Parish Hall! If you are unable to be at the luncheon we will have the ornaments available at Coffee Hour leading up to Christmastide.

Please RSVP to Fr. Nelson (nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org) so we can get an accurate count.

Christmas Flowers Form

If you would like to donate a poinsettia (one or more) to beautify the Chancel during the Christmas Season (from Christmas Eve through Sunday, January 2) please fill out the form included in this leaflet and drop it off or mail it in to the Parish Office (600 S. La Cañada, GV, AZ 85624) before Monday, December 20. Please make every effort to print legibly so we don't have to call you.

The Boutique Is Open

Come see the beautiful items St. Francis Boutique is offering as you get ready for the upcoming holidays. There's jewelry, decorative items, handmade items by parishioners such as pottery, cards, paintings, beautiful embroidered pillow cases and knitting. It's easy shopping and all reasonably priced, and remember, all profits go directly to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please remember the Boutique when you shop! *Jylene Wright*

New Advent Study

Led by Fr. Warren

Join Fr. Warren for an Advent study to include daily reflections and practices throughout the four weeks of Advent, similar to the Lenten series.

The theme of the study is PRACTICING PATIENCE WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH, AND MIND.

Sessions remaining include:

Week Two, December 7: Practicing Patience with Ourselves

Week Three, December 14: Practicing Patience with Others

Week Four, December 21: Practicing Patience with God.

Plan to join Fr. Warren at 10 AM in the Parish Hall for every session; he will be delighted

to see you whether or not you have attended the first session.

Outreach Christmas Stars

We are delighted to report that all the 'Stars' have been picked up (but we are still accepting checks) and that we will be on duty at our table in the Parish Hall during Coffee Hour to collect Stars and checks and to answer any and all questions. *The Elves*

The Covenant Fund Christmas Card Party

The 25th annual Covenant Fund Christmas Card Party will be celebrated in the St. Francis Parish Hall on Saturday, December 4, at 2 PM, and you are invited. We will require an RSVP as we are limited to no more than 100 guests. Call or stop in at the Parish Office (520-625-1370) to reserve your place. Enjoy a lovely meal catered by Santa Cruz Caterers, and Christmas music by Harpist, Christine Vivona.

The Covenant Fund, administered by the Rector, was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners. Here's how it works: Instead of sending cards to all your friends at St. Francis, just buy one card and put the money you save on cards and postage in the envelope and bring it along to the party. Your card will be placed on the tree in the Parish Hall where all will be able to enjoy it and the money you have saved will be donated to the St. Francis Covenant Fund.

Our Thanks

Huge 'thank you' to the Turkey Squad and to all who helped prepare, cook, and serve, the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Special thanks, as always, to Mark & Sandy Eckstein.

Current Protocols

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING Covid 19 protocols:

- all pews are now open for seating,
- the main (East) door into the Narthex is now open to welcome worshippers,
- worshippers wishing to receive Communion are invited to receive the elements at one of two standing Communion stations at the front of the church,
- Communion wafers are no longer in plastic baggies, and
- Communion wine will be available by intinction (only) for those wishing to receive it.

To avoid crowding the aisle during the distribution of the Sacrament, only one row at a time will move forward *please remember to follow Usher's directions*; masks are still required in large groups such as worship services for the time being.

These are all temporary measures and we will be tracking future developments in pandemic protocols.

Tracking Stewardship

Our most hearty thanks to all who have filled-out and sent in their Estimate of Giving forms; thanks to all of you we are on our way to establishing our new budget. If you have not as yet had a chance to complete and submit your form, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. If you have not received your stewardship materials, just stop in at the Parish Office and we will be happy to provide them. You may also submit your pledging information to Finance Officer Deborah (she's very nice) by phone; give her a call at 625-1370. To date we have received 81 Estimate of Giving forms (up from 68 last week) with \$194,544 pledged (up from \$160,792 last week).

Home Communion

St. Francis is once again offering home Communion to parishioners unable to attend church services. If you would like a Lay Eucharistic Volunteer to bring you the Sacrament, please contact Deacon Becky (480-204-0022) or via email (1beckyw@cox.net).

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed for December

The Parish provides everything for Sunday Coffee Hour, but needs your help to arrange cookies on plates, setting out cups and juice and coffee carafes. Serving cookies and pouring juice and coffee is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners. Contact Gail Haight (520-490-2739) and let her know you want to lend a hand.

Roof Replacement Update

As discussed at the recent Town Hall, the cost to replace our roofs is over \$74,000. (*At this writing the total stands at \$12,925 - up from \$11,875 last week.*) We invite all parishioners who would like to donate towards this important need, to write a check with the memo "Roof Repair Fund." All donations are greatly appreciated!

Prayer Chain

For **PRAYER CHAIN** requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnjrats@gmail.com.

Photo Gallery

If you would like to view photos of the Grounds Keepers appreciation celebration, they are available online at <https://www.stfrancisgvaz.org/photo-gallery.html>