



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Green Valley, Arizona

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
27 NOVEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

Johann Seb. Bach, 1685-1750

Sleepers, Awake!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 56 stanzas 1 & 2

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 Isaiah (2:1-5).

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest
of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to
it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk
in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from
Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM (122) *Please respond at the half-verse*

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of
the LORD, * the assembly of Israel, to
praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment,
* the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions'
sake, * I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our
God, * I will seek to do you good."

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (13:11-14).

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 Matthew (24:36-44).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch

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

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 53

1. Once he came in blessing,
all our ills redressing;
came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us,
hope and freedom gave us.

2. Still he comes within us,
still his voice would win us
from the sins that hurt us,
would to Truth convert us:
not in torment hold us,
but in love enfold us.

3. Thus, if thou canst name him,
not ashamed to claim him,
but wilt trust him boldly
nor dost love him coldly,
he will then receive thee,
heal thee, and forgive thee.

4. One who thus endureth
bright reward secureth.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
from our sins release us;
let us here confess thee
till in heaven we bless thee.

Sleepers, Awake!

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 get in touch with him via email at: frwarren@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, 2p C.S. Lewis Class, Conference Room
- Tuesday, 10a Advent Study
- Tuesday, 3:30p Handbells, Loft
- Wednesday, 9a Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- Thursday, 2p Parish Choir, Loft

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 1) 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 19. PLEASE make every effort to print legibly so we don't have to call you.

Shop the Boutique for Christmas!

The TALENTS UNLIMITED BOUTIQUE is now ready for you to do your Christmas shopping! Lots of unique, beautiful gifts at reasonable

prices, so grab your coffee and come see! If you can't decide on something specific, we also have GIFT CARDS available for purchase. Shopping at the Boutique is so easy; and you are supporting a mission at St. Francis as All profits go directly to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. It's a win-win when you buy in the Boutique. *Jylene Wright*

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.

New Advent Study

Led by Fr. Warren

Fr. Warren will be leading a four-week Advent Study class called *Living Well Through Advent 2022*. Join him in the Parish Hall from 10 to 11 AM on Tuesdays, November 29 (*Simplicity and Balance*), December 6 (*Simplicity and Letting Go*), December 13 (*Simplicity and Joy*), and December 20 (*Simplicity and Faith*). You can register for the class following Sunday services—and in the Parish Office during the week—or you may email Fr. Warren directly to let him know of your interest in the class (frwarren@stfrancisgvaz.org).

Outreach Christmas Stars

Bea Dow and Nancy Symons (aka Santa's Elves) are busy helping the Salvation Army spread Christmas cheer in the form of \$50 gift cards. You will find the Stars (each one with the name of a needy teenager) available in the Parish Hall following Sunday services. Return your Star with a \$50 Visa gift card by

Sunday, December 11 or, alternatively, you may write a check for \$50 (made payable to St. Francis Church with 'Xmas Stars' in the memo line) and the elves will do the shopping for you. Stars and checks may also be returned to the Parish Office (Monday through Thursday, 9 AM until NOON) during the week.

The Covenant Fund Christmas Card Party

It's time for our annual Christmas Card Party, so set aside Wednesday, December 7, and join us in the Parish Hall at 4:30 PM for a wonderful meal prepared and served by Santa Cruz Caterers. Christmas Music will be provided by guitarist Angel Perez.

The Christmas Card Party raises money for the St. Francis COVENANT FUND. Established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin, the Covenant Fund provides temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners. The fund is administered by the Rector. 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 everyone will be able to enjoy it and the money you save will be donated to the St. Francis Covenant Fund.

The Party is a catered event and reservations are necessary; just call the Parish Office (520-625-1370), or stop in during the week, to make your reservation. Sign up sheets are available after Sunday services too.

True Concord Lessons & Carols

Our friends from TRUE CONCORD VOICES AND ORCHESTRA will be singing their annual LESSONS & CAROLS concert here at St. Francis at 7 PM, Friday, December 16. Gerald has

tickets priced at \$25 for general seating and \$42 for premium seating. (Cash or check—made out to True Concord—only, please.) Tickets may be available at the door but, as this is a very popular event, the concert may be sold out in advance. You may also purchase tickets through the Chamber of Commerce or the True Concord website (www.trueconcord.org).

Prayer Chain

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

C. S. Lewis Class

We will continue our discussion of Lewis' essay TRANSPOSITION on Monday, November 28. Join us in the Conference Room at 2 PM for a lively and in-depth examination of this important work of Christian apologetics. You're welcome to join the class even if you haven't read the essay (we're very tolerant of those who haven't done their homework). This past week, on Tuesday, Clive Staples Lewis was, as he is every year, remembered in the Episcopal Calendar. Lewis died November 22, 1963, the same day—and at almost the same time—that John F. Kennedy and Aldous Huxley (author of the novel *Brave New World*) died, the former by assassination and the latter by an overdose of LSD. The book *Between Heaven and Hell*, by author and philosopher Peter Kreeft, imagines the three—Lewis, Kennedy, and Huxley—getting together in *limbo* (actually, they don't know where they are) to discuss the idea of eternity, heaven, and hell, Christianity, secularism and Buddhism. A fascinating read. *Gerald*

2023 Gratitude & Giving Campaign

If you have not yet filled out your ESTIMATE OF GIVING form, it can be completed online by going to the St. Francis in the Valley website (stfranciscgvaz.org) where you will click on the “2023 Gratitude in Giving Campaign” button. This will take you directly to the campaign information and the ESTIMATE OF GIVING form which can be completed online or, if you choose, can be printed and manually filled out and mailed to the church or dropped in the collection basket. Please return ASAP as the budgeting process has begun.

Please note: you can share your estimate anonymously, if you so choose.

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for November and December 2022 and January 2023 are now available in the Parish Office, Parish Hall and Narthex.

Altar Flowers

Would you like the flowers on the altar to be given in thanksgiving or in remembrance of someone or something you cherish? If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 with your request. If she is not at home, leave your name and number and she will get back to you. Flower donation is \$35.

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

Prayer Requests

REMEMBERING THOSE in need of our prayers: Paula Chamberlain, Kathy Ravine, Linda Ravenelle, Dennis Ballantine, Clyde Tardy, Alex, Kelly Davis, Dominic Weeber, Sue Howell, Maks Borowicz, Gail, Pat Merrill, Eileen Fanning, Tom Moorhead, Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Shirley Underwood, Rita Beil, Jean Schwafel, Franck Brown

REMEMBERING THOSE who have died: Wilbert Menix, Richard Danby

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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Bishop

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch,
Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

Gerald Near, *Parish Administrator*

Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*

Julie Reppenhagen, *Senior Warden*

Kristi Menix, *Junior Warden*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*

Deana Bond, *Lead Sexton*

Clarke Green, *Sexton*