



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
3 DECEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Wilbur Held, 1915-2015

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. **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.)*

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 forever. 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.*

TRISAGION

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

People *Have mercy upon us.*

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

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 immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON (*please be seated*)

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (64:1-9).

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the

hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (80:1-7, 16-18) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. | 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. |
| 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us. | 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, * the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. |
| 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. | 17 And so will we never turn away from you; * give us life, that we may call upon your Name. |
| 4 O LORD God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? | 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. |
| 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink. | |
| 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn. | |

The Epistle

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1:3-9).

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 58

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

THE GOSPEL (*please stand, as you are able*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark (13:24-37).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this genera-
tion will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will
pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will
come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find
you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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 VI) *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer our Bishop; and
for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your
Church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next
presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all your
people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We acknowledge the native peoples of the land on which we stand:
*We pay our respects to the Pasqua 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.

Celebrant 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. The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THE OFFERTORY

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

Susan Geschke, b. 1953

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus
The St. Francis Handbell Ensemble*

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,
and give us generous hearts to serve you in
all who claim your help.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

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 every-
where 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 may stand, sit, or kneel.

Celebrant 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,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People have mercy on us.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People have mercy on us.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People grant us peace.

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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The elements are offered at the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. Please remember to follow Usher's directions.

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 Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 616

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of Love.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Gordon Young, 1919-98

Chant Heroique

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@stfranciscgvaz.org. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you.

Altar Greens

Altar greens are given by Cheryl & Nancy Tardy-Albin to the glory of God and in loving memory of Cheryl's brother Clyde.

Organist this morning

Sophia Witte, our Handbell Ensemble director, is at the organ this morning.

Prison Ministry

During coffee hour this morning we will have two guest speakers: Retired Federal Magistrate Judge Charles Pyle and Veronica Torres. Veronica was incarcerated for 25 years. Please join us and listen to judicial and personal points of view about incarceration. My apologies for the mixed up dates last week. See you later this morning. *Rena Robbins*

Christmas Shopping at the Boutique

Christmas will be here before you know it! We have beautiful Creche sets, all sizes at prices you're going to love, as well as many unique decorative items. It's easy shopping, so bring your coffee and come see after the 9 o'clock service. And remember, when you shop with us you're helping the Green Valley community, as all profits go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. What a perfect way to shop, remembering the needy while acquiring beautiful holiday items. *Jylene Wright*

Christmas Stars

Santa's Elves, Nancy Symons and Bea Dow, are so grateful that all the "stars" for gift cards have been handed out. Remember that the last date for return is December 10, either after Church or in the Parish Office during the week. You've helped many teen-agers have a Christmas to remember.

St. Nicholas Day Party

Join in on Wednesday, December 6—the Feast Day of Nicholas of Myra (a.k.a. St. Nicholas)—for a Christmas Tree decorating and cookie exchange party. The festivities begin at 3 PM in the Parish Hall. Bring cookies to eat and cookies to share (two dozen, homemade or store bought) and a special decoration for the Parish Christmas Tree. No sign up necessary.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conf Rm
Tuesday, 10a	Advent Study, Parish Hall
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	Finance Committee, Meeting Room 2
Wednesday, 3p	St. Nicholas Party, Parish Hall
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Saturday, 4p	Holy Eucharist, Parish Hall

You're invited to...

...the annual St. Francis Covenant Fund CHRISTMAS CARD PARTY, Saturday, December 16, at 5 PM in the Parish Hall. The price of admission is a Christmas card for the entire Parish and a donation to the COVENANT FUND. Here's how it works: instead of purchasing and mailing Christmas cards to all your St. Francis friends, just get one card and bring it to the party. Your card will be used to decorate a Christmas tree in the Parish Hall for everyone to enjoy. Contribute the money you save on cards and postage to the COVENANT FUND by including a check with your card. Money from the fund provides financial assistance to St. Francis parishioners in need.

The party is being catered so you're asked to let us know you'll be there by signing up at the SOCIAL ACTIVITIES table in the Parish Hall after services.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the Parish Hall December 9 at 4 PM.

Blue Christmas

Not all people find the Christmas and New Year holidays a time of joy, but rather a time of loneliness, sorrow, pain, or grief. In recognition of these "blue" feelings, St. Francis will offer a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 17, at 3 PM. Please join us—and invite any friends or neighbors who may be experiencing such blue feelings—to this service of readings, prayer, and some music appropriate to the season. We pray that those who experience these holidays as not very merry or bright will come and find hope and comfort in knowing that they are not alone.

Important Interfaith Service

An Ecumenical Celebration of Peace and Light will be celebrated at 4 PM on Friday, December 8, at Valley Presbyterian Church. Picking up on themes of Hanukkah and Advent, this celebration will be truly ecumenical and apolitical. We are joining together as the Faith Communities of Green Valley to pray for Peace and Light.

There will be an Open Choir gathering at 3 PM in the Valley Presbyterian sanctuary.

Your gently-read books needed

The St. Francis Library Committee will be hosting a massive book sale—not just of religious books, but all kinds of books—in February 2024. So why publicize this now?

Because we need all the books in your home that you've already read (or given up on) and need/want to get rid of and would like to donate for our sale! The money generated from the sale will be used to support our digital catalog and buy new books for the library. Please bring your gently-read books to the St. Francis library during the month of December 2023, leaving them in the corner to the left of the Library door.

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for November, December, and January (2024), are now available in the Parish Office and Parish Hall.

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, jnrats@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Paul Witte, Henry Witte, John Witte, Dick Kosnick, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Eileen Fanning, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Debi Murry, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Anne Charter, Linda Greenwald, Ken Jakubiak, Stephen Schwarzmann, Jan Hall, Charles Gardner, Sue Thompson, Al

Remembering those who have died: Ian Gunderson (son of Dawn Wagaman)

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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