



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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
6 DECEMBER 2020

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN 76

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant We light a second candle on our Advent Wreath,
recalling the peace we are given through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace.

(The second candle is lighted)

Celebrant Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for the true and lasting peace
you bring to our hearts and lives through your son, Jesus.

Help us prepare our hearts for his presence, his life, his way.

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.*

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

Celebrant Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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 (40:1-11).

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (85:1-2, 8-13) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Epistle

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter (3:8-15a)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN 67

1. Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

2. Hark, the voice of one that crieth
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that the word is never broken.

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark (1:1-8).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The 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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishop Jennifer; for this gathering; and for all
ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the sick [especially _____]; and for the poor,
the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence may be kept.

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.**

AN ADVENT LITANY*

Reader In joyful expectation let us pray to our Savior and Redeemer,
saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!"

O WISDOM, FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MOST HIGH, you reign over
all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

*AN ADVENT LITANY Copyright © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from *Anglican Liturgical Library*. Further copying is prohibited.

O LORD, AND HEAD OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O BRANCH OF JESSE, STANDING AS A SIGN AMONG THE NATIONS, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O KEY OF DAVID AND SCEPTER OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O MORNING STAR, SPLENDOR OF THE LIGHT ETERNAL AND BRIGHT SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O KING OF THE NATIONS, YOU ALONE CAN FULFIL THEIR DESIRES: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O EMMANUEL, HOPE OF THE NATIONS AND THEIR SAVIOR: come and save us, Lord our God.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

THE PEACE

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

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 56

1. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant 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, 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,
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 God of Promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People Happy are we who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 65

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.

2. He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy Name.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Worship Schedule

This year's Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at 3 PM on Thursday, 24 December, and on Christmas Day we will meet to celebrate Our Lord's Incarnation at 10:30 AM. Both services will be held in the Courtyard. Be sure to register with Administrative Assistant Beth-el Klein (bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org or 520-625-1370) as space is limited.



Journeying the Way of Love:

ADVENT CURRICULUM

For the season of Advent, JOURNEYING THE WAY OF LOVE offers four sessions to be explored as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke.

◆Advent I: The Annunciation: Saying "Yes" to the Journey;

◆Advent II: Mary and Elizabeth: Journeying with Family and Friends;

◆Advent III: The Birth of John the Baptist: Journeying with Community; and

◆Advent IV: The Birth of Jesus: Journeying with the World.

Fr. Warren will be offering four in-person classes in the Parish Hall (only ten participants allowed) on Tuesday mornings (9 to 10 AM) starting December 1 and continuing on December 8, 15, and 22, with a ZOOM option offered on the same dates at 11 AM, unlimited participants welcome.

Materials for each week will be emailed to participants taking the Zoom option and handed out to in-person participants.

To reserve your space get in touch directly with Fr. Warren via email (frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org).



Coffee Zoom!

Join Fr. Warren for a mid-week coffee break via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10 AM. You can get the necessary link from Beth-el (email her at bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org) or directly from Fr. Warren (frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org).



Handbells anyone?

St. Francis Handbell Ensemble will resume rehearsals beginning Tuesday, December 1, at 1:30 PM in the Choir Loft. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037 or e-mail her at smw_witte@yahoo.com. We had a small group that got together to play for Fr. Colville's last service at St. Francis, and we decided at that time that we would like to continue rehearsing. We are able to social distance in the Loft. Masks are required.



Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group is meeting once again, but on Zoom rather than in-person. Meetings include 25 minutes of silence followed by a short *Lectio Divina* and a few minutes for community reflection. If you would like to join in, get in touch with James or Sophie Luffman: James at jmluffman@hotmail.com or Sophie at sophieluffman@hotmail.com. They will be pleased to hear from you.

The Boutique is Open

Our Talents Unlimited Boutique is open (by appointment only). Watch for the article in the December Newsletter for information on all the new and exciting items available and, remember, all proceeds go to Clergy Discretionary Funds. call Jylene Wright at 812-455-2476 to get your very own private, care-free shopping time. We have unique gifts at totally reasonable prices!



TeleCare Ministry

Our TeleCare Ministry is looking for another volunteer to make phone calls to parishioners on a monthly basis. This is a wonderful ministry that enables our members to remain in contact with the church and especially during this difficult time of the pandemic. If you are interested in making monthly phone calls please contact Deacon Becky at 480-204-0022 to discuss this valuable ministry.



Cruzando Fronteras

Help is needed to bring Christmas to Cruzando Fronteras families—some of whom have been with the group for almost a year—and especially to the children. We need to let them know they are not forgotten!

Donations to Cruzando Fronteras may be mailed to 969 W. Country Club Drive, Nogales, Az, 85621 (before 19 December). Please indicate 'Posada Gift' on the memo line of your check. Monetary donations can be made online at bit.ly/azcruzando; again please note 'Posada Gift' in the memo box at the bottom of the screen. Many blessings and

a Merry Christmas to all from our friends at Cruzando Fronteras.



Annual Meeting

Hey kids, what time is it? Time (almost) for the Annual Meeting, scheduled this year (or, rather, next) for Sunday, 24 January 2021. If you are responsible for an Annual Report, the deadline for submission is Monday, 18 January 2021. Please email your report (preferably as a Word document) to the Parish Administrator (gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org).



Altar Flowers

Would you like the flowers on the altar to be given in thanksgiving or in remembrance of someone or something you cherish? We would like to restart this tradition here at St. Francis. 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 \$35.00.



Weekend worship at St. Francis

In-person worship is now at 10:30 AM every Sunday in the Courtyard. We are masked and socially separate, for safety. Reserve your seat with Beth-el at 520-625-1370.

Wafers-to-go continue to be offered from the front driveway on Saturday from 3 to 5 PM. Pick up wafers for online worship on SATURDAY ONLY—no longer on Sunday morning.