



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
5 DECEMBER 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

On Jordan's Bank

Malcolm Archer, b. 1952

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 56, stanzas 3 & 4

3. 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!

4. 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!

THE LIGHTING
OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near.

People *O come let us adore him. Alleluia!*

Officiant 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.)

Officiant Let us pray. Loving God, 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 SENTENCES

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

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 Redeem-
er; 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 Malachi (3:1-4).

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom
you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom
you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the
day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier
of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and
silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of
Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in for-
mer years.

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

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH (*Luke 1:68-79*) *Please respond at the half-verse*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them
free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised
of old, that he would save us from our
enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fa-
thers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father
Abraham, * to set us free from the hands
of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High, * for you will go before
the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
* by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon
us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death, * and to guide
our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will
be for ever. Amen.

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:3-11).

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (3:1-6).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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 (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

Setting by Gerald Near

Author of life divine, Who hast a table spread, Furnished with mystic wine And everlasting bread, Preserve the life thyself hast given, And feed and train us up for heaven. Our needy souls sustain With fresh supplies of love, Till all thy life we gain, And all thy fulness prove, And strengthened with thy perfect grace, Behold without a veil thy face. Amen.

Words by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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 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

Prepare the way, O Zion

Wilbur Held, 1914-2015

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
Tuesday, 9a	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Classroom

Tuesday, 10a	Advent Study, Parish Hall
Tuesday, 12p	Stephen Ministry, Vulliamy Room
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	Memorials Committee, Classroom
Wednesday, 10:30a	Daughters of the King, Parish Hall
Thursday, 9a	Finance Committee, Conference Room
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Friday, 7p	True Concord Lessons & Carols (see below)

True Concord Lessons & Carols

Grammy-nominated TRUE CONCORD VOICES AND ORCHESTRA will once again be singing their annual Lessons & Carols program here at St. Francis at 7 PM, Friday, December

10. Tickets, priced at \$40 (premium seating, front center) and \$25 (further back) are available through our Director of Music Gerald Near (they are a bit more expensive at the door and online). Proof of vaccination and masks are required. You can show your vaccination card at the door or email it to True Concord ahead of time (*admin@trueconcord.org*). Gerald's new setting of Christina Rossetti's beloved poem 'In the bleak mid-winter' will be given its first performances at these concerts. World-class music making right in our own backyard.

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.

Boutique Open Wednesdays

In addition to being open every Sunday after the service, St. Francis Boutique will now be open on Wednesdays, starting December 8, from 10 AM until 2 PM. It's easy shopping: no lines or crowds, and plenty of free parking only a few steps from the door. (You're welcome to use the outside door on the north side of the Church off Calle de Alegria.) Hesitant about the perfect gift for someone? We have GIFT CARDS available so your special someone can come shop for themselves. and, to save you a drive to the Orchard, we now have bags of whole Green Valley Pecans. All Boutique profits go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, so please remember the Boutique when you shop. *Jylene Wright*

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*

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.

Lost & Found

If you think you may have lost something

of value on the St. Francis campus, visit the Parish Office to see if it has been turned in to our Lost and Found department.

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 is available by intinction (only) for those wishing to receive it.

To avoid crowding the center 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.

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 96 Estimate of Giving forms (up from 81 last week) with \$242,354 pledged (up from \$194,544 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

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 \$17,925 - up from \$12,875 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.

St. Francis in the Valley

Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley, Arizona 85614
(520) 625-1370

www.stfrancisgvaz.org
www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz