



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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4 DECEMBER 2022

ORGAN PRELUDE

Malcolm Archer, b. 1952

On Jordan's Bank

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 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

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 Isaiah (11:1-10).

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his
roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understand-
ing, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or
decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and
decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of
his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness
shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and
the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the
bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like
the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child
shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (72:1-7, 18-19) *Please respond at the half-verse*

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|--|---|
| 1 Give the King your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the King's Son; | 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the earth. |
| 2 That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice; | 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; * there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. |
| 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring righteousness. | 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, * who alone does wondrous deeds! |
| 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; * he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. | 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! * and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. |
| 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another. | |

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (15:4-13).

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 Matthew (3:1-12).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

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

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

Christopher Wiggins, b. 1956

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, rejoice! Let your moderation be known to all people. (Philippians 4:4-5)

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

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 one of two standing Communion Stations at the front
of the church. 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.*

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.

continued

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

Wilbur Held, 1914-2015

Prepare the Way, O Zion

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, 11a	Finance Committee, Conference Room
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Conference Room
Tuesday, 10a	Advent Study, Parish Hall
Tuesday, 3:30p	Handbells, Loft
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 4:30p	Christmas Card Party, Parish Hall
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Sunday, 9a	Holy Eucharist

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.

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*

Saturday Afternoon Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be December 10 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall. Join us!

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.

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18 at 3 PM

For many people the holiday season is not filled with joy; rather it's a time of sadness,

depression, grief. Our Blue Christmas service of readings and music is offered as a way of acknowledging and honoring those feelings together with others who are also experiencing a sense of loss and aloneness. Please join us—and invite others you may know who are suffering this season—as we look to the coming of the Christ Child for hope and comfort.

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 Christmas Flowers form (you'll find them on the tables at the entrances to the church) and drop it off or mail it in to the Parish Office (600 S. La Cañada, GV, AZ 85614) before Monday, December 19. PLEASE make every effort to print legibly so we don't have to call you.

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 jnrats@gmail.com.

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.

Prayer Requests

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

REMEMBERING THOSE who have died: pray for the departed

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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