



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
13 DECEMBER 2020

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN 59

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."
2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;
4. so when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
may he with his mercy shield us,
and with words of love draw near.
5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Celebrant We light a third candle on our Advent Wreath,
recalling the joy we experience with a new life in Christ.

(The third candle is lighted)

Celebrant Let us pray. Loving God, your son Jesus brings the promise
of a new life—a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk,
and the prisoners are set free. We remember today that He is the one
through whom we know true and everlasting joy.

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 Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (61:1-4, 8-11).

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE CANTICLE (THE SONG OF MARY: Luke 1:46-55) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

The Epistle

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 54

1. Savior of the nations, come!
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (1:6-8, 19-28).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

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!

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!

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THE PEACE

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

People And also with you.

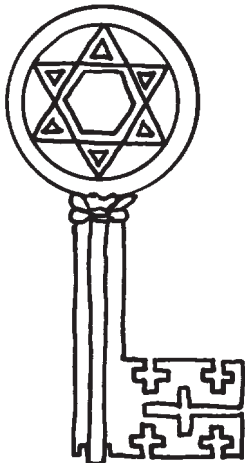
OFFERTORY HYMN 56

1. O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
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.



○ Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

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 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 72

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song. | 3. He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor. |
| 2. He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield. | 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name. |

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God
by Bea Dow in memory of Peter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Worship Schedule

This year our CHRISTMAS EVE service will be celebrated at 3 PM on Thursday, 24 December, and on CHRISTMAS DAY, Friday, 25 December, we will gather 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.

Our BLUE CHRISTMAS service will be held this year on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 20 December 2020, at 3 PM in the Courtyard. If the season is a difficult one for you, please join us for this service of comfort and light. And, if you able, come and support those needing loving companionship during trying and difficult times. Again, please let Administrative Assistant Beth-el Klein know of your interest.

Remember to observe social distancing and always wear your mask at Parish events.

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.

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 the 10:30 AM Eucharist 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.

St. Francis in the Valley

Episcopal Church

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Green Valley, Arizona 85614

(520) 625-1370

www.stfrancisgvaz.org

www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddell, *Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, *Curate*

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*