



**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**
12 DECEMBER 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Gerald Near, b. 1942

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 56, stanzas 5 & 6

5. 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!

6. 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!

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

(The third candle is lighted.)

Officiant 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 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

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 Zephaniah (3:14-20).

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH (*Isaiah 12:2-6*) Please respond at the half-verse

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my
sure defense, * and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with
rejoicing * from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, * Give
thanks to the Lord and call upon his
Name;
Make his deeds known among the peo-
ples; * see that they remember that his
Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has
done great things, * and this is known in
all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out
your joy, * for the great one in the midst
of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (4:4-7).

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 (*Please stand if you are able*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (3:7-18).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

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

ST. FRANCIS BELL ENSEMBLE

arr. G.E. Maunula

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation:
People and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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.

5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run.

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.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Hark! A thrilling voice

Malcolm Archer, b. 1952

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, 10a	Advent Study, Parish Hall
Tuesday, 11a	Social Activities, Conference Room
Tuesday, 4p	Vestry, Conference Room
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Thursday, 10a	Outreach, Parish Hall
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft

Christmas Services

✿BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE✿

Sunday, December 19 at 3 PM

✿CHRISTMAS EVE✿

Friday, December 24

Christmas Music, 5:30 PM

The Holy Eucharist, 6 PM

✿CHRISTMAS DAY✿

Saturday, December 25 at 9 AM

✿CHRISTMAS I✿

Sunday, December 26 at 9 AM

The Bells Are Ringing

Our St. Francis Bell Ensemble, under the direction of Sophia Witte, will be providing

music at the Offertory this morning. (They are looking for new members too, by the way. They rehearse on Tuesdays at 9 AM in the Loft. Let Sophia know of your interest: smw_witte@yahoo.com or 520-509-5037.)

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church will be held Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. You are most cordially invited to attend. If you are responsible for a report please get it to the Parish Administrator via email (you can provide either a Word document or type your report into the body of an email) at gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org by Tuesday, January 18. The earlier the better, please.

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*

Tuition Tax Credits

Our good friends at Imago Dei Middle School have this timely message for us:

"You can help educate some of Tucson's most vulnerable children—at no cost to you. The AZ Private School Tuition Tax Credit Program allows you to put your state tax dollars to work changing lives through education at Tucson's Imago Dei Middle School, offering an Episcopal private-school education to low-income 5th-through-8th-graders. Unlike tuition-driven private schools, Imago Dei serves only children living in poverty, so all of our students receive full scholarships. We meet our students where they are and offer the structure and resources to help them grow into all that they can be. Learn more about helping through the Tax Credit Program at www.az-esf.org. Thank You and a joyous Christmas season from all of us at IDMS!"

Here's a great way to make a difference in the lives of young people in need. Please consider putting your tax dollars to work through the Arizona Private School Tuition Tax Credit program.

Cruzando Fronteras

Cruzando needs chap stick, small jars of Vicks, white socks for children and adults, and Pampers/Luvs in sizes 2 to 5. Look for the collection spot in the Parish Hall.

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 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.

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 January

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.

Prayer Chain

For **PRAYER CHAIN** requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnrats@gmail.com.

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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*
Gerald Near, *Parish Administrator*

Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*

Julie Reppenhagen, *Senior Warden*

Kristi Menix, *Junior Warden*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*

Deana Bond, *Lead Sexton*

Clarke Green, *Sexton*