



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
11 DECEMBER 2022

ORGAN PRELUDE

Nicolas Jacques Lemmens, 1823-1881

Creator of the stars of night

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: 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.)

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.*

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 the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10).

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They
shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of
a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with ven-
geance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then
the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For
waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning
sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jack-
als shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not

travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (146:4-9) *Please respond at the half-verse*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of
Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas,
and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are
oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the
Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed
down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord
cares for the stranger; * he sustains the
orphan and widow, but frustrates the
way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, * your
God, O Zion, throughout all genera-
tions. Hallelujah!

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of James (5:7-10).

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL 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.
2. He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
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.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (11:2-11).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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.
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

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 DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Malcolm Archer, b. 1952

Hark! a thrilling voice

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.

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*

This Week at St. Francis

Tuesday, 10a	Advent Study, Parish Hall
Tuesday, 3:30p	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 4p	Vestry, Conference Room
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10a	Memorials Committee St. Francis Room
Wednesday, 10:30a	DOK Christmas Party, Parish Hall
Thursday, 10a	Personnel Committee, Conference Room
Thursday, 11a	Finance Committee, Meeting Room 2
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Friday, 7p	True Concord Concert
Sunday, 3p	Blue Christmas Service

Advent Study

Led by Fr. Warren

Fr. Warren is 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, 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

Thanks to all fifty of you who have fulfilled the Christmas wishes of the teens in our community by purchasing and giving \$50 gift cards. All fifty Christmas Stars, due December 11, were adopted Sunday, November 27, and we are happily watching gift cards and checks come into the Parish Office and to us after Sunday services. Hearts & Hands is grateful for your generosity, as are the teens.

Barb Hook

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.

Hearts & Hands

HEARTS & HANDS is asking that you consider the sick folks, especially the children, at *Casa*

de Misericordia in Nogales where Kathleen the nurse (who, by the way, is also a Verger) ministers to those waiting for asylum. We have given Kathleen a gift to purchase prescription medications, but she is also asking for our help with these particular meds:

- Tylenol and Ibuprofen for ages 1 and 2
- Children's decongestants and cough medicine
- Adult decongestants cough drops and lozenges
- hydrocortisone and Neosporin

Please bring your offerings to the church on Sunday. There will be a basket for your gifts.

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.

Prison Ministry

Imagine a drum roll....Final count, 301 Christmas cards, signed, sealed, addressed, stamped, blessed by Bishop Reddall and delivered to the Post Office on November 22. Mailed in November to allow Perryville Prison to do its thing prior to delivering the cards to the women. You folks are amazing! Over 500 cards were donated and every cent of postage was also donated, plus a little extra. Thank you for your support of Episcopal Prison Ministry! *Rena Robbins*

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for November and December 2022 and January 2023 are now available in the Parish Office, Parish Hall and Narthex.

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, Roger Williams, Neal Helgath

REMEMBERING THOSE who have died: pray for the departed

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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Bishop

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch,
Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*
Gerald Near, *Parish Administrator*
Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*
Julie Reppenhagen, *Senior Warden*
Kristi Menix, *Junior Warden*
J. Michael Case, *Organist*