



**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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
20 DECEMBER 2020

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**OPENING HYMN 53**

1. Once he came in blessing,  
all our ills redressing;  
came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
bore the cross to save us,  
hope and freedom gave us.  
2. Still he comes within us,  
still his voice would win us  
from the sins that hurt us,  
would to Truth convert us:  
not in torment hold us,  
but in love enfold us.

3. Thus, if thou canst name him,  
not ashamed to claim him,  
but wilt trust him boldly  
nor dost love him coldly,  
he will then receive thee,  
heal thee, and forgive thee.  
4. One who thus endureth  
bright reward secureth.  
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
from our sins release us;  
let us here confess thee  
till in heaven we bless thee.

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Celebrant* We light a fourth candle on our Advent Wreath—the candle of love. Its light reminds us of the love God has for each of us, recalling the joy we experience with a new life in Christ. *(The fourth candle is lighted)*

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us to remember that Love is patient, kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish; love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends.

*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 Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your  
Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who  
lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from The Second Book of the Prophet Samuel (7:1-11, 16).

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his  
enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a  
house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all  
that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant  
David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not  
lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day,  
but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved  
about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal  
leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why  
have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my  
servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from follow-  
ing the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever  
you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you

a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

**THE PSALM** (89:1-4, 19-26) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever; \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

## The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (16:25-27)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

## GRADUAL HYMN 618

1. Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!  
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,  
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. O higher than the cherubim,  
more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises, Alleluia!  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,  
most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke (1:26-38).

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

**I**n the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the

sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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**

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!*

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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!*

## 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, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
and be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

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.



The Annunciation and the Visitation  
Taken from a sixth century Egyptian piece of embroidery. The star above the scenes of the Annunciation (left) and Visitation (right) adds to the expectation expressed by Mary and her cousin Elizabeth.

## 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 58**

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2. Every eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers;  
with what rapture, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Christmas Worship Schedule*

Our beautiful BLUE CHRISTMAS service will be held this afternoon at 3 PM in the Courtyard, and it's still possible to get a seat. If the season is a difficult one for you, please join us for this service of comfort and light. And, if you are able, come and support those needing loving companionship during trying and difficult times.

This year's CHRISTMAS EVE service is fully booked (with waiting list) but seats are still available for CHRISTMAS DAY (Friday, 25 December at 10:30 AM in the Courtyard). Be sure to register with Administrative Assistant Beth-el Klein for CHRISTMAS DAY and BLUE CHRISTMAS ([bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org) or 520-625-1370) as space is limited.

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

### *Covenant Fund*

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional CHRISTMAS CARD PARTY, the annual event through which we raise money for the St. Francis COVENANT FUND. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, pandemics notwithstanding, and you can contribute to it by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby (she's nice; it says so on her door) or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

### *Prayer Chain*

PRAYER CHAIN requests should be directed to Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email,

at [jnrats@gmail.com](mailto:jnrats@gmail.com). Our thanks to Jim for his kind attention to this important ministry.

### *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](mailto:bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org)) or directly from Fr. Warren ([frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org)).

### *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](mailto:jmluffman@hotmail.com) or Sophie at [sophieluffman@hotmail.com](mailto: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*

“The Casa,” the shelter in Nogales, Sonora, is doing well. There are 264 residents on the property and still not COVID 19. The residents are still waiting to be allowed to legally cross to the United States. The Rev. Rodger Babnew reports that spirits are good and that this Saturday they will be celebrating their *Posada*, which is their Christmas party. All donations are welcome since tours have stopped due to the border closure.

Donations may be mailed to 969 W. Country Club Drive, Nogales, Az, 85621, or made online at [bit.ly/azcruzando](http://bit.ly/azcruzando).

### *Weekend worship at St. Francis*

Sunday, in-person worship is now the 10:30 AM eucharist celebrated in the Courtyard. Please bring and wear your mask and remember to stay at least six feet from others (unless you are a couple). Reserve your place with Administrative Assistant Beth-el at 520-625-1370 or, via email, at [bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org).

Pick up wafers for online worship on Saturdays from 3 to 5 PM at the front driveway of the church.

### *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.

### *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.

### *Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Reports*

Hey kids, what time is it? (said Buffalo Bob) why, it's Annual Parish Meeting time! You won't want to miss yet another exciting and stimulating Parish Meeting, so mark your calendars for sometime on 24 January 2021. The usual cast of characters will be present (at least 'virtually') to entertain you and bring you up to speed with pertinent information concerning all aspects of Parish life at St. Francis.

Now then: if you are responsible for an annual report for the ANNUAL REPORT, please be sure your copy is complete and sent via email to the Parish Administrator ([gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:gerald@stfranciscgvaz.org)) by Tuesday, 12 January 2021 (you don't want him coming after you). Please send copy (without formatting) as a Word document or, alternatively, type it into the body of an email.

### *The Keys to the Kingdom (or the Campus anyway)*

If you have keys in your possession for any of the doors to the Church/Parish Hall/Office complex, and you no longer have a need for them, we would greatly appreciate having them returned to Deborah Harby in the Finance Office.