



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
19 DECEMBER 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

Rorate caeli

Jeanne Demessieux, 1921-68

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 56, stanzas 7 & 8

7. 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!

8. 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!

**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 fourth candle on our Advent Wreath—the candle of love. Its light reminds of the love God has for each of us.

(The fourth candle is lighted.)

Officiant 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 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

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 Book of Micah (5:2-5a).

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you
shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought
forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall
stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the
Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the
earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF MARY (*Luke 1:46-55*) *Please respond at the half-verse*

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.

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

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (10:5-10).

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader *The Word of the Lord.*

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN 66

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (1:39-45).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Tom Neyland

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 IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Silence

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.

Silence

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

THE OFFERTORY

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

AT THE OFFERTORY

Italian Carol, harmonized by Charles Wood

*Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! For so when he did meet thee, Spake mighty Gabriel, And thus
we greet thee. Come weal, come woe, Our hymn shall never vary. Hail Blessed Virgin
Mary! Ave, ave Maria! To gladden priest and people, The angelus shall ring from ev'ry
steeple, To sound his virgin birth, Alleluia! Ave, ave Maria! Archangels chant Osanna,
And Holy, Holy, Holy, before the Infant born of thee, thou lowly, Aye maiden child of
Joachim and Anna; Archangels chant Osanna.*

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 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!
3. Thus on earth the Word appears,
gracing his created spheres;
hence to death and hell descends,
then the heavenly throne ascends.
4. Come, O Father's saving Son,
who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
grant that we its glories see.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Once he came in blessing

Paul Manz, 1919-2009

*Altar greens are given to the Glory of God by Bea Dow
in loving memory of her husband Peter.*

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.

Today at St. Francis Blue Christmas Service

Join us this afternoon at three o'clock for this lovely, candlelit service of comfort and cheer for those among our parishioners and friends for whom the Christmas holiday season is a time of sadness. Come, and add comfort and support by your presence.

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.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 9a	Morning Prayer, Chapel
Tuesday, 9a	Handbells, Loft
Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group, Classroom
Tuesday, 10a	Advent Study, Parish Hall
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft

Christmas Services

✿ 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

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.

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 park-

ing 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.

Thank You!

Mark and I would like to take a special moment to thank everyone in our Parish and our community for their enormous support and financial assistance for our Turkey Squad this year. Our 2021 Income was \$1,312; our expenses were \$707.36. Our Net, \$604.64 will be to put toward our Thanksgiving dinner 2022 expenses.

Our Turkey Squad team was fantastic and so eager to help us every step of the way! We are so happy we served 107 meals and for the blessings that abound at St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church!

Mark & Sandy Eckstein

Library Resource Center Now Open for Business

Your church Library Resource Center is waiting for you to stop by and select books to read from its collections of 100s of books. It is located in the hallway from the Parish Hall main meeting room and is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM until NOON and Sunday after church. Wednesdays and Thursdays there is a volunteer to help you find what you are looking for.

The emphasis of our collection is spirituality, self-improvement, learning to listen and learn, and helping us live wonderful lives and sharing that with others. The library volunteers have been very busy for the past months processing books for your enjoyment.

Come in, browse the shelves and ask for help. That is what we are here for.

Joyce Davison, Your Librarian

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 111 Estimate of Giving forms (up from 96 last week) with \$273,782 pledged (up from \$242,354 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.

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.

Prayer Lists

It's important that we keep our lists of persons in need of our prayers current, and you can help. If you would like to add the name of a loved one, friend or family member, to the

list of names to be read in the Sunday morning liturgy—including the list of those who have died—please let one of the Clergy know and they will convey the information to Gerald for inclusion in the Prayers of the People. (And be sure to let the Clergy know of any pastoral need you have or know of; don't let the Church be always 'the last to know.')

Remember too to let us know when we can **remove** names from the list. You may also let Gerald know directly (gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org) of the names of persons you would like to include in the Prayers of the People, but we encourage you always to go through the Clergy.

St. Francis in the Valley

Episcopal Church

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www.stfrancisgvaz.org

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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*