



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
24 DECEMBER 2023

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**ORGAN PRELUDE**

Paul Bryan, b. 1950

*The Angel Gabriel*

**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 us of the love God has for each of us.

*(The fourth candle is lighted.)*

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 record 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 forever. 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** *(Hymnal S100: the People are invited to join the choir.*

*Trisagion is traditionally sung three times.)*

Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.

## THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

## THE COLLECT

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 *(please be seated)*

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 following 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;<br>* from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.   | 20 I have found David my servant; *<br>with my holy oil have I anointed him.                 |
| 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; * you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.                                  | 21 My hand will hold him fast *<br>and my arm will make him strong.                          |
| 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; * I have sworn an oath to David my servant:   | 22 No enemy shall deceive him, * nor any wicked man bring him down.                          |
| 4 "I will establish your line for ever, * and preserve your throne for all generations."  | 23 I will crush his foes before him * and strike down those who hate him.                    |
| 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. | 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 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 GOSPEL *(please stand, as you are able)*

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

*People Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In 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 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 Pon-

tius 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 VI)** *The people may stand, sit, or kneel*  
*Leader* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer our Bishop; and  
for all bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence (The People may add their own thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in  
your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

**A**lmighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all your people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We acknowledge the native peoples of the land on which we stand:  
*We pay our respects to the Pasqua 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.

*Celebrant* 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. The Celebrant says to the people  
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, arr. Charles Wood, 1866-1926*

*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. -words by G.R. Woodward, 1848-1934*

## AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,  
and give us generous hearts to serve you in  
all who claim your help.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People Amen.*

## 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 every-  
where 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 may stand, sit, or kneel.*

*Celebrant* 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, AGNUS DEI** (*Hymnal S161*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: *have mercy on us.* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: *have mercy on us.* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: *grant us peace.*

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 the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. 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* Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

### CLOSING 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.

*Once he came in blessing*

### 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@stfranciscgvaz.org](mailto:frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org). Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card and hand it to an usher or one of the clergy, or place it in the offering basket. We would love to hear from you.

### Musical Moments

This morning you are invited to join the Parish Choir in singing two important liturgical pieces: the TRISAGION and the AGNUS DEI. The TRISAGION (Greek: pronounced tree-SAH-ghee-own) is often sung—in the seasons of Advent and Lent—in place of the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (*Glory to God in the highest*), right after the opening sentences (page 2). It is traditionally sung three times. TRISAGION comes from the Eastern liturgical tradition, as does KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord, have mercy*; also Greek and often sung during Lent in place of the GLORIA). The AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*) stems from the Latin tradition; it is sung immediately after the Celebrant ‘breaks’ the bread (thus it is known as a ‘fraction’ anthem) and before the invitation to communion (page 9). The musical settings we will be singing were written by the distinguished American composer David Hurd. The tunes are not unfamiliar, so do join in. (Of course you then run the risk of being invited to join the Parish Choir.) *Gerald*

### Christmas Items 30% off at the Boutique

There’s still time to get those beautiful Christmas gifts in the Boutique with all of our Christmas merchandise now 30% off! So even if you are set for this year, NOW is the time to enjoy getting real deals for next Christmas. Come see all the bargains after the 9 o’clock service. *Jylene Wright*

### This Week at St. Francis

Today, 6p	Christmas Eve Liturgy <i>Incense will be used.</i>
Monday, 9a	Christmas Day Liturgy
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Next Sunday, 9a	Christmas I - The Holy Eucharist

### Parish Offices Closed

Our Parish Offices will be closed this coming week (from Monday, December 25 through Friday, December 29). Emergency services will always be available by calling the Office (520-625-1370) and following the verbal prompts.

### Green Team Update

Thank you Franciscans for the steps that have been taken to Care for Creation. Recycling has become more routine, earth friendly products have been sold, the St. Francis Green Team has expanded into the community and new trees have been planted in the parking lot. In addition, fewer paper products have been used during parish gatherings. When appropriate we encourage sharing bulletins and also using the hymnals to

reduce the number of printed pages. These small steps make a difference! *Susan Burch sburch33@gmail.com*

Tip—Remember the old series “Have Gun Will Travel?” Consider this scenario “Have Mug Will Travel.” If you regularly drink church coffee or tea, consider reducing costs and waste. Travel with a personal mug.

### Thank You

Representing the Hearts and Hands Committee, Nancy Symons and Bea Dow wish to thank you for your Christmas offering of gift cards to the Salvation Army. It is important to remember that all the teenagers that happily received a gift card were registered in advance with the Salvation Army. All 50 “Stars” were given and returned by December 10 and the Salvation Army is thankful to each of you for blessing many teenagers with Christmas cheer. *Nancy Symons*

### Your gently-read books needed

The St. Francis Library Committee will be hosting a massive book sale—not just of religious books, but all kinds of books—in February 2024. So why publicize this now? Because we need all the books in your home that you’ve already read (or given up on) and need/want to get rid of and would like to donate for our sale! The money generated from the sale will be used to support our digital catalog and buy new books for the library. Please bring your gently-read books to the St. Francis library during the month of December 2023, leaving them in the corner to the left of the Library door.

### A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved

ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

### Hearts & Hands Ministries

▶ VALLEY ASSISTANCE: VA helps folks in need by providing bar soap, laundry and dish washing detergent, ammonia (or glass cleaner), toilet paper, tampons, sanitary pads (regular or medium, or overnight-style with wings). You can help by purchasing some of these items, bringing them to church and depositing them in the labeled, purple container in the Sexton’s closet (Southwest corner of the Parish Hall).

▶ LOCAL FOOD BANKS: We continue to collect non-perishable items for our local Food Banks. Monetary donations are welcome too, simply write your check payable to St. Francis with Green Valley Food Bank in the Memo line and we’ll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week.

▶ VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to deliver these gifts to the Food Bank on Continental any time during the week. If you are willing to take one month, please pick your month and *email behook@aol.com*.

▶ DON’T FORGET: the Sahuarita Food Bank collects cardboard (cereal box style too). The receptacle is on the south side of the Food Bank building, on La Cañada.

### Forward Day by Day

Daily devotional booklets for November, December, and January (2024), are now available in the Parish Office and Parish Hall.

## Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, [jnrats@gmail.com](mailto:jnrats@gmail.com)

### Our Prayer Lists

Our St. Francis congregation is an important and lively source of prayer for those in our midst who are suffering illness or loss. Please help us keep our prayer lists current by letting us know when prayers are needed—and for whom—and when they are, thankfully, no longer needed. Names read during the Sunday liturgy should, with discretion, be of parishioners and their immediate family members—and close friends—in urgent need of our supplications. In some cases the PRAYER CHAIN might be the most appropriate ministry (see above) and, in other cases, posting a name in the PRAYER REQUESTS section of the Sunday service leaflet may serve to keep your loved one's name(s) before your fellow parishioners as well as before our extended Parish family, friends and visitors (see below). If prayers are needed, they will be offered.

### Prayer Requests

Remembering those in need of our prayers: Paul Witte, Henry Witte, John Witte, Dick Kosnick, Bob Vint, Sr., Kelly Davis, Eileen Fanning, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Anne Charter, Linda Greenwald, Ken Jakubiak, Stephen Schwarzmans, Charles Gardner, Ellen Vowells, Annette, Jean Schwafel, Louise Hursh, Jason Camp

Remembering those who have died: pray for those who have died

### St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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[www.stfrancisgvaz.org](http://www.stfrancisgvaz.org)  
[www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz)

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, *Bishop*  
The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*  
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*  
The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*  
Gerald Near, *Director of Music and  
Parish Communications*  
Deborah Harby, *Finance Officer*  
Megan McAllister, *Finance Assistant*  
Julianne Reppenhagen, *Senior Warden*  
Jim Ratley, *Junior Warden*  
J. Michael Case, *Organist*  
Sophia Witte, *Handbell Ensemble director*  
Matthew Harby, *Lead Sexton*  
Nathaniel Martinez, *Sexton*