



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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
7 JANUARY 2024

ORGAN PRELUDE

anon. 17th cent.

All who believe and are baptized

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 76

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

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.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON *(please be seated)*

A Reading from the Book of Genesis (1:1-5).

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (29) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and
strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his
Name; * worship the LORD in the
beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the
waters; the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful
voice; * the voice of the LORD is a
voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the
cedar trees; * the LORD breaks the
cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild
ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the
flames of fire; the voice of the LORD
shakes the wilderness; * the LORD
shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak
trees writhe * and strips the forests
bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the
flood; * the LORD sits enthroned as
King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his
people; * the LORD shall give his peo-
ple the blessing of peace.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (19:1-7).

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—together there were about twelve of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 121

1. Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet
as urgent as a flame.
2. God called you his beloved Son,
called you his servant true,
sent you his kingdom to proclaim,
his holy will to do.
3. Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.
4. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.

THE GOSPEL *(please stand, as you are able)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark (1:4-11).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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 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.

Almighty 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

Alan Bullard, b. 1947

*God to enfold me. God to surround me, God in my speaking And God in my thinking. God
in my sleeping, God in my waking, God in my watching And God in my hoping. God in my
life, God in my lips, God in my soul, God in my heart, God in mine eternity.*

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

People God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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 616

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.
4. Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
5. O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of Love.

Psalm 19

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. 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.

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.

Boutique News

Thanks so much to all our parishioners who shopped in the Talents Unlimited Boutique during the holidays. As we welcome in the new year, we hope you will continue to remember the Boutique when you're looking for a gift for a special person (maybe You!) or for a special occasion. You're always welcome just to come in and look around after the 9 o'clock service when we're always open. You'll see that we offer unique and beautiful items at better prices than you'll find elsewhere and, to make it even better,

please know that when you buy in the Boutique you are helping the needy in our Green Valley community as all Boutique profits to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We look forward to seeing you soon. *Jylene Wright*

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of of St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church Parish will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024, following the 9 o'clock service. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

This Week at St. Francis

Monday, 10a	Handbells, Loft
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Wednesday, 10 a	DOK, Vulliamy Room
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft
Saturday, 4p	Saturday Eucharist, Parish Hall

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Holy Eucharist will be celebrated January 13, at 4 PM.

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*

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.

Library Book Sale

Happy 2024 from your Library Committee!
It’s a new year—a time for new beginnings, fresh starts, clean sweeps, out-with-the-old-and-in-with-the-new. So how about starting with your sagging shelves and stacks of books next to your easy chair—books that you’ve read and loved, but probably won’t read again, or those you’ve started twice, but can’t really get into? Your St. Francis Library Committee would be delighted to take them off your hands (so you can make room for new or new-to-you books in the new year). Our massive book sale is scheduled for two Sundays in February (the 18th and 25th), but we need your donated books NOW so we can plan for our set-up and staffing. So please bring any books you’d like to contribute to the sale (preferably in boxes) and leave them in the Library (just down the corridor from the Parish Hall) on Sunday, or drop them off in the Church Office during the week. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated—and the people who get to find new treasures in your old books will be grateful too. All proceeds (at \$1 per pound) will go toward the purchase of new books for your Parish Library and technical support for our digital catalog which you can access from home. *Thank you, and Happy New Year!*

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*

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, Sandra Findley, Shirley Underwood, Amanda, Frank Brown, Delilah Wegrzyn, Tom Moorhead, Elaine & Paul Deysenroth, Anne Charter, Linda Greenwald, Stephen Schwarzmann, Charles Gardner, Ellen Vowells, Annette, Jean Schwafel, Louise Hursh, Jason Camp, Alan Hyde, Roger Williams

Remembering those who have died: Eileen Fanning, Polly Hyde

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

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www.facebook.com/stfranciscgvaz

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*