



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe, Interim Rector

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 December 2019

Rite Two, at 8 and 10 AM

ORGAN PRELUDE Malcolm Archer, b. 1952

On Jordan's Bank

OPENING HYMN 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: The Savior of the World draws near.

People: **Come, let us adore him.**

Leader: The Lord is our faith and life.

People: **May his love shine in our hearts.**

The third candle of Advent is lighted

Together: **O God, we rejoice in the witness of John the Baptist, who staked his life on your promise of a Savior who would preach good news to the poor. Strengthen our weak hands; make firm our feeble knees; and stir up our spirits so that we may rejoice to hear you proclaim, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you," through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

OPENING SENTENCES Prayer Book 355

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. **Amen.**

TRISAGION Hymnal S100

Celebrant: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

In our First Reading the Prophet envisions a time of abundance and healing for Israel. A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10).

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

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

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

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

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE CANTICLE (Luke 1:46-55)

(Please respond following the asterisk.)

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.

THE SECOND READING

Our Second Reading is an exhortation to patient expectation in preparation for the coming of the Lord. A Reading from the Letter of James (5:7-10).

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into

the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe

Please stand as you are able

THE NICENE CREED Prayer Book 358

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

Lector: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come among us, converting our hearts, illuminating our minds, and straightening our paths. Help us to sense your bountiful grace at work within us, and make us more than we would be without your aid:

People: **The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad!**

Lector: As we meet the challenges of each day, strengthen weak hands, make firm feeble knees, and bring words of encouragement to those who are fearful of heart:

People: **Be strong, do not fear, here is your God, who will come and save you.**

Lector: There is no hope in any child of earth, and we place our trust in God alone:

People: **Who gives justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry.**

Lector: We ask your Spirit to be a comfort and healing power to those who are sick, (*the people may offer their petitions*), and for all in sorrow, anxiety, or any kind of trouble:

People: **The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.**

Lector: In the life of our parish we pray especially for those with whom we are yoked in labor that in shared commitment we may further the work given into our care:

People: **Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help.**

Lector: When, like John the Baptizer, we are in doubt and asking, “Are you the Christ, or is there some other?” remind us of all your deeds and the mercies we have known in our own lives:

People: **The lepers are cleansed, the blind see, and the poor have good news preached to them.**

Lector: We acknowledge the native peoples of the land on which we stand:

People: **We pay our respects to the Pascua Yaqui and Pima tribes for their care of this land.**

Lector: Lead us in the Holy Way; that the ransomed of the Lord might return and come to Zion with songs of gladness:

People: **Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(The People may stand or kneel.)*

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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.

People: **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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY Christopher Wiggins, b. 1956
Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, rejoice! Let your moderation be known to all people. *Philippians 4:4-5*

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee.

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: Blessed are you, Lord God of time and eternity...

...singing the hymn of your unending praise.

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 or kneel.)*

Celebrant: God of blessing...

...in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Delivering God...

...ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer Book 364

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

On Receiving Communion: *Our Communion Table is open to all baptized Christians. You may*

stand or kneel at the rail to receive the Sacrament. (If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let one of the clergy know.) If you do not wish to receive Communion you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. Members of the Daughters of the King will be at the Chapel rail at both services to administer prayers for healing and thanksgiving. Please go to the Chapel rail after your Communion.

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us Pray.

People: **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 72

Hark the glad sound! the Savior comes

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE Wilbur Held, 1914-2015
Hark! the glad sound

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Bea Dow in loving memory of her husband Peter, and by Ann Zublin in loving memory of her husband Edward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

15 DECEMBER 2019

TODAY

DECEMBER 15 – ADVENT III

- 8:00a Holy Eucharist
- 9:00a Coffee Hour
- 10:00a Holy Eucharist
- 11:00a Coffee Hour
- 4:00p Blue Christmas Service

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 8:30a Morning Prayer – Chapel
- 9:00a Fr. Colville's Advent Class
– Conference Room
- 10:00a Outreach – Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 9:00a Staff Meeting – Library

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 9:00a Holy Eucharist – Chapel
- 12:00p Border Ministry – Parish Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:00a KBI Breakfast Prep – Kitchen
- 9:00a Finance Committee – Library
- 10:00a Women's Group – St. Francis Room
- 10:00a Communications – Library
- 10:15a Centering Prayer – Chapel, Conf Rm
- 2:00p Parish Choir – Loft

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 6:00a KBI Breakfast Prep – Kitchen
- 8:00a Bulletins – Library
- 1:00p DOK Training – St. Francis Room

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

No Parish events scheduled

NEXT SUNDAY

DECEMBER 22 – ADVENT IV

- 8:00a Holy Eucharist
- 9:00a Coffee Hour
- 10:00a Holy Eucharist
- 11:00a Coffee Hour

TODAY

•**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** – The season leading up to Christmas is not joyful for everyone. Many carry the pain and memory of loss or hardship that overshadows the gaiety of the season. This ‘blue’ feeling is acknowledged and respected during the *Blue Christmas Service*, an event wherein we give comfort and support to those feeling down. Join us this afternoon at 4 PM for this lovely candlelit service. It’s a wonderful opportunity for us to show we care for those suffering with sadness.

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

•**MORNING PRAYER – PLEASE NOTE:** For the month of December (only) Morning Prayer will be prayed on Mondays at 8:30 AM – rather than 9 AM – in order to accommodate those who would like to attend Fr. Colville’s 9 o’clock class on the Book of Ruth. As always the service will be held in the Chapel. It’s a wonderful way to begin your day in prayer with others.

•**THE REFUGEE AND BORDER MINISTRY** group has invited Shura Wallin to present a program and have a conversation regarding her ministry with the Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans. Join us in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, December 18, at NOON. Everyone is welcome!

•**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** – It’s time to think of Christmas decorations for the Chancel and Nave of the Church. If you would like to help us further beautify our already beautiful interior, let us know by filling out the form included in today’s Bulletin and attach a check for your \$30 donation. Please print legibly and return the form to the Parish Office, either in person or by mail. Please DO NOT place forms in the Offering Baskets.

•**‘RUTH’ CLASS CONTINUES** – The Advent class on Ruth continues for two more sessions: December 16 and 23. In these sessions we are looking at the

carrying power of the loyalty modeled by Naomi and Ruth. We are moving to understand what it means for later biblical writers, and for later history into our own time. RUTH meets Monday mornings at 9 AM in the Conference Room.

Fr. Colville

•**PLANS FOR LENT** – St. Francis has a reputation for Lenten programs which are interesting, instructive, delicious...and fun! We want to maintain our reputation in Lent, 2020. This month, we want to hear your lenten program ideas for 2020. All planners are invited to meet this Tuesday, December 17, at 2 PM in the Conference Room. Bring your ideas for this year’s lenten theme, and possible speakers to address the theme.

•**SEEKING TELLERS** – We have a wonderful set of volunteers who help us with the Sunday collection every Monday morning! Wouldn’t you like to be one of them? We have some new openings on our teller teams and are seeking a few volunteers who can assist one or two hours every other month. You would be picking up cash from the Sacristy and counting and preparing cash receipts. Interested? Have some questions? Finance Officer Deborah will be happy to visit with you.

•**TAXES! TAXES! TAXES!** – If you have a yearly income tax liability with the Arizona Department of Revenue, you can make a significant gift to the Imago Dei Middle School, a member school of the Arizona Episcopal Schools Foundation and a partner with St. Francis for the past eight years. And it won’t cost you a dime! You get the tax credit and the students (scholars) get an exceptional education that prepares them for a bright future. Over forty members of St. Francis are already doing just this. Won’t you join them? A brief informational meeting will be held between services today in the Conference Room next to the Parish Hall. Meanwhile, call Wayne North at 715-205-8374 if you have questions or would

like further information. Barbara Hook will also be available these same three Sundays in the Conference Room to present other options for your tax credit.

•**THANKS** – to all our Food Bank Delivery folks! These volunteers make sure all your food offerings get to the right place for distribution. Be sure to thank them when you see them at church—Arliene Stremming in January and October, Jan Koltun in June and July, the Arundells in August and September, the Helgesons in April and May and the DallaMuras in December and March. We need a couple of people to help out in February and November. If you are able to join this ministry please call Barb Hook at 648-7949 or email behook@aol.com

•**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – It's coming up Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 11 AM.

If you are responsible for producing a report to be included in the Annual Report Booklet, please create your copy as a Word file document and send it to the Parish Administrator via email (gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org); alternatively your report may be typed into the body of an email. Please do not format your copy.

•**HANDBELLS ANYONE?** – We will be starting a handbell ensemble at St. Francis. Rehearsals will be once a week beginning in January and will take place in the Choir Loft, day and time to be determined. A background in music is helpful, but not necessary. Any questions, call Sophia Witte at 520-509-5037, or e-mail her at smw_witte@yahoo.com.

•**SEEKERS DISCUSSION GROUP** – The Group will not meet for the rest of December. See the December Parish Newsletter for details of the next project.

•**LATEST CRUZANDO FRONTERAS NEEDS** – Toilet paper, soaps, shampoo, jeans (size 28-36), bed sheets, towels, sweatshirts, diapers (sizes 2&3),

warm jackets, sneakers, undergarments (all sizes), socks, backpacks, coloring books (child & adult), crayons/pens/coloring pencils/notebooks for ESL class, peanut butter/jelly, snacks/snack bars, rice/beans (pinto), cereals, oatmeal, and blankets.

As always, funds are also a priority need. If you can provide monetary assistance, donate through the Cruzando Fronteras webpage at fronteras.azdiocese.org, or drop a check made out to St. Francis with "Cruzando Fronteras" in the memo line in the offering plate or at the Parish Office.

•**PRAYER CHAIN** – For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnjrats@gmail.com.

•**HOME COMMUNION** – If you or someone you know would like to have a home visit or the Sacrament brought to you at home, please let Deacon Becky Williamson know by calling her at 480-204-0022 (or via email at 1beckyw@cox.net). We are happy to bring the Sacrament to those who are ill or to anyone unable to attend services.

•**DO YOU WANT TO ATTEND A PARISH EVENT AND NEED TRANSPORTATION?** – Our Men's Group will provide the ride. Just call the Parish Office, 625-1370, to confirm the date and time.

PRAYER REQUESTS

•**THE DIOCESE OF ARIZONA** – Church of the Nativity, Scottsdale

•**ST. FRANCIS MINISTRIES** – Hearts and Hands Care Teams

•**PRAY FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT:** Jackie Springer, Judy Richardson, Jim Toombs, Peter Murphy, Jan Travis, Kathy Grier, Julie Ratley, Nathan Reddall, Libby Moore, Bonnie Selcho, Bill Ryan, Joyce Kaminski

•**FOR ALL THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY:** Mike Davis, Matthew Day, Issac Noone, Chase Helgeson, Jackson Vaughn

•**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:** Keith Workman

Our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world.

PARTICIPANTS AT 8 O'CLOCK

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe
Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe
Deacon: The Rev. Becky Williamson
Lector: David Barnes
Prayers of the People: Wayne North
Acolyte: Weston Barnes
Ushers: Ken Adams,
Susanne Fairman
Greeters: Susan Davis, BrandE Faupell
Organist: Michael Case
Sound Technician: Arnie Berglund

PARTICIPANTS AT 10 O'CLOCK

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe
Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe
Deacon: The Rev. Becky Williamson
Lector: Harry Russell
Prayers of the People: Larry Howell
Crucifer: Frank Anderson
Acolyte: Glenn Matto
Ushers: Bud & Marsha Tripp
Greeters: Janie Hessong, Sue Moody,
Cheryl Tardy-Albin
Organist: Michael Case
Sound Technician: Neal Hursh

We extend a warm welcome to our guests and visitors and we are delighted to have you worship with us. Our Communion Table is open to all baptized Christians. Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after the service, and please complete the Visitor's Card found in the pew racks and place it in an Offering Basket or hand it to an Usher or Greeter after the service.

SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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www.facebook.com/stfrancisgvaz

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Anne Reddall, *Bishop*
The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*
Gerald Near, *Parish Administrator*
Deborah Harby
Financial Officer
Beth-el Klein, *Administrative Assistant*
J. Michael Case, *Organist*
John Colip, *Head Sexton*
Sue Whitney, Henry Ramirez,
Clyde Tardy
Sextons

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
8 AM – 2 PM

THE VESTRY

Wayne North, Senior Warden; Julie Reppenhagen, Junior Warden;
Mary Beth Bates, David Dunn, Sandy Eckstein, Larry Howell, Orji Isiogu,
Jenica Hisko, Sandy Russell, Helen Mullaly, Cheryl Tardy-Albin;
ex officio: Bobbi Tucker, Clerk; Erik Ringjob, Treasurer.