



SAINT FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe, Interim Rector

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 December 2019

Rite Two, at 8 and 10 AM

ORGAN PRELUDE

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Savior of the nations, come

OPENING HYMN 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND 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 second candle of Advent is lighted

Together: **O God our Creator, into the world before Jesus you sent people of great faith to prepare his way. With Isaiah, we pray for leaders who *with righteousness shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.* As John the Baptist called on the people to repent, help us heed his call to act fairly and to live justly, so that we may welcome the Savior you send us...into our hearts. 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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

In our First Reading the Prophet foresees a time when God will bring forth a Righteous judge and a new spirit of peace in the world. A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (11:1-10).

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with

the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM (72:1-7, 18-19)

(Please respond following the asterisk.)

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; * he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, * who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! * and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

In our Second Reading Paul points to several passages from the Hebrew scriptures to show how God's promise that the Gentile peoples should come to praise God was being fulfilled. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (15:4-13).

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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: We pray for our nation and for the nations of the world, that Isaiah's vision of a peaceable kingdom might increase our quest for wisdom and shape our choices for the common good:

People: **God shall judge the poor with righteousness, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.**

Lector: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf

and the lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them:

People: **For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as waters cover the sea.**

Lector: Grant us your Spirit to perform the deeds to which we have been called, seeking justice and striving after righteousness:

People: **The Lord shall defend the needy and rescue the poor among the people.**

Lector: Encourage the Church by those scriptures written in former days, and grant us harmony to glorify you with one voice:

People: **Welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed us.**

Lector: We pray for the peace and tranquility of this parish, for our diocese, national church and for the Church universal throughout the world:

People: **May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing.**

Lector: We pray for those who are ill or suffering in our midst (*the people may offer their petitions*), for you preserve our lives and grant us strength:

People: **God shall rain down like showers on a mown field.**

Lector: Help us to heed the one crying in the wilderness, and to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance:

People: **Prepare the way of the Lord, make every path straight.**

Lector: Place before our eyes the root of Jesse, a signal to all people, that we may hope in him, even Jesus Christ our Lord:

People: **May we bless ourselves in Christ and call his Name blessed as long as the sun endures, and the Spirit rises in our hearts. Amen.**

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 *Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, When half spent was the night.

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: Holy are you, God of Jesse...
 ...with whom forever we sing your 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: Anointing God...
 ...in remembrance of me."
 Great is the mystery of faith.
People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**
Celebrant: Astonishing 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 59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE Malcolm Archer, b. 1952
Hark! A thrilling voice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8 DECEMBER 2019

TODAY

DECEMBER 8 – ADVENT II

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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:30a Morning Prayer – Chapel
 9:00a Fr. Colville's Advent Class
 – Conference Room
 1:30p Grief Support – St. Francis Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00a Men's Group – Conference Room

6:00p Vestry – Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00a Holy Eucharist – Chapel

9:30a DOK – Vulliamy Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

10:15a Centering Prayer – Chapel, Conf Rm

2:00p Parish Choir – Loft

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00a Bulletins – Library

1:00p DOK Training – St. Francis Room

7:00p True Concord Lessons & Carols

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

No Parish events scheduled

NEXT SUNDAY

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 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.

•**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 where in we give comfort and support to those feeling down. Join us next Sunday, December 16, at 4

PM for this lovely candlelit service. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to show we care for those suffering with sadness.

•**CHRISTMAS STARS** – REMEMBER: gifts must be turned in to the Parish Office by December 11.

•**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 IN ADVENT** – Here comes a delightful Advent Bible study to prepare you for Christmas! It's an intimate story with cosmic consequences. The Book of Ruth is short (just four chapters) and sweet (happy ending), but it packs plenty of punch in those four chapters! Naomi and Ruth face life-threatening adversity and navigate risky relationships. We will have fun looking at the text to see how love conquers all!

December 9 Women without men

December 16 Survival? Seduction?

December 23 Bridge to the future

Three Mondays in December, 9 to 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. Invite a friend!

Fr. Colville

•**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? Contact Deborah in the Finance Office.

•**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 the first, second and third Sundays in December 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—Arlene 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** – What do we wait for all year? Why, the Annual Parish Meeting of course! How can football compete with the Annual Report? What could be more exhilarating than parish finances?

But seriously folks, it's important once a year to tend to the business of the Church, and **YOU ARE** the Church. So don't plan anything for Sunday, January 19, 2020, from 11 AM until (roughly)

NOON, that looks at all interesting because, we will entertain you!

•**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.

•**PRAYER CHAIN** – For Prayer Chain requests contact Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnrats@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** – All Saints, Safford

•**ST. FRANCIS MINISTRIES** – Outreach Committee

•**PRAY FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT:** Peter Murphy, Libby Moore, Jan Travis, Nathan Reddall, Kathy Grier, Julie Ratley

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

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: Susan Davis
Prayers of the People: Wayne North
Acolyte: Sylvia Smythe
Ushers: Arliene Stremming, Jan Koltun
Greeters: Bill & Marie Miller
Organist: Michael Case
Sound Technician: Marie LeRoy

PARTICIPANTS AT 10 O'CLOCK

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe
Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Colville Smythe
Deacon: The Rev. Becky Williamson
Lector: Carol Vleck
Prayers of the People: Reg Kahrimanis
Crucifer: Frank Anderson
Acolyte: Bud Tripp
Ushers: Joe & Pat McCarthy
Greeters: Julie & Charlie Reppenhagen,
Larry Bear
Organist: Michael Case
Sound Technician: Craig Jones

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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520-625-1370

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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.