



Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

Green Valley, Arizona

The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, Rector
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, Curate
The Rev. Becky Williamson, Deacon

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE TWO THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY 27 DECEMBER 2020

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING HYMN 100

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.*
Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (61:10—62:3).

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (147:13-21)

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (3:23-25; 4:4-7)

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 324

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (1:1-18).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Nelson Mendoza

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 II)

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishop Jennifer; for this gathering; and for all
ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the
oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper
knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Reader 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.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 115

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

AT THE PRESENTATION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,

People And of thine own have we given thee.

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.

Blessed are you, gracious God, 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 knowledge of salvation in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Together Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
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.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 93

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Fr. Warren, Fr. Nelson and all the staff at St. Francis wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

May 2021 be the start of a new beginning. We look forward to the time when family and friends can come back together in happiness and celebration. *Fr Warren*

Weekend Worship at St. Francis

Sunday, in-person worship is now the 10:30 AM eucharist celebrated in the Courtyard. Please bring and wear your mask and remember to stay at least six feet from others (unless you are a couple). Reserve your place with Administrative Assistant Beth-el at 520-625-1370 or, via email, at bethelklein@stfrancisgvaz.org.

Pick up wafers for online worship on **SATURDAYS FROM 3 TO 4 PM ONLY BEGINNING SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021**. They will be available as usual at the front driveway of the church. **Please note this change.**

Organist Today

Sophia Witte, director of our Handbell Ensemble, is at the organ this morning.

Embodied Bible Study

Starting on January 4, 2021 at 11 AM, Fr. Nelson will be offering an “Embodied Bible Study” group weekly through Zoom.

Rooted in practices from “Embodied Theology,” the flow of the study will involve reading the past week’s Sunday readings, particularly the Gospel, and then applying interpretations of the text. We will read vari-

ous translations and Biblical interpretations and then will enter some time for reflection. As you are comfortable, we will explore how your experiences, identities, and personal narratives influence your relationship to the reading and how you engage with it.

You don’t need to be a Biblical scholar to understand the Bible. In fact, this group will help to empower you to interpret and digest scripture for your daily lives.

Please email Fr. Nelson directly to register at nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org.

Mondays on Zoom at 11 AM starting January 4, 2021 through April 5, 2021

A Call for Tech Volunteers

We are looking for people interested in learning how our sound system works; if you count yourself among the techies, you’re needed to support the existing sound and audio volunteers in order to alleviate the burden of being here every Sunday. If you’re interested, please email Fr. Nelson directly at nelson@stfrancisgvaz.org or you may contact Beth-el to express your interest: 625-1370.

The Keys to the Kingdom (or the Campus anyway)

If you have keys in your possession for any of the doors to the Church/Parish Hall/Office complex, and you no longer have a need for them, we would greatly appreciate having them returned to Deborah Harby in the Finance Office.

Covenant Fund

Thanks to the COVID pandemic we were not able this year to schedule our traditional Christmas Card Party, the annual event that raises money for the St. Francis Covenant Fund. The fund—administered by the Rector—was established in 1993 by Dorothy

Baldwin to provide temporary financial aid for needy St. Francis Parishioners.

The need is still with us, pandemics notwithstanding, and you can help relieve the suffering by dropping off a check to Finance Officer Deborah Harby (she's nice; it says so on her door) or you can contribute online through the Parish website. The need this year is even greater, so please help if you can.

Annual Parish Meeting

It's Annual Parish Meeting time! You won't want to miss yet another exciting and stimulating Parish Meeting, so mark your calendars for sometime on 24 January 2021. The usual cast of characters will be present (at least 'virtually') to entertain you and bring you up to speed with pertinent information concerning all aspects of Parish life at St. Francis.

Now then: if you are responsible for an annual report for the Annual Report, please be sure your copy is complete and sent via email to the Parish Administrator (gerald@stfrancisgvaz.org) by Tuesday, 12 January 2021 (you don't want him coming after you). Please send copy (without formatting) as a Word document or, alternatively, type it into the body of an email.

Amazon Smile

If you purchase goods from Amazon.com (and who doesn't?), a percentage of the price can be sent to your favorite charity (or church - hint, hint) as a donation. All you have to do is sign up for Amazon Smile. Talk about easy money! Try it.

Altar Flowers

Would you like the flowers on the altar to be given in thanksgiving or in remembrance of someone or something you cherish? We

would like to restart this tradition here at St. Francis. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 with your request. If she is not at home, leave your name and number and she will get back to you. Flower donation is \$35.00.

Telecare Ministry

Our Telecare Ministry is looking for another volunteer to make phone calls to parishioners on a monthly basis. This is a wonderful ministry that enables our members to remain in contact with the church and especially during this difficult time of the pandemic. If you are interested in making monthly phone calls please contact Deacon Becky at 480-204-0022 to discuss this valuable ministry.

Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain requests should be directed to Jim Ratley at 253-365-5093 or, via email, at jnjrats@gmail.com. Our thanks to Jim for his kind attention to this important ministry.

ST. FRANCIS IN THE VALLEY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, *Curate*

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*