



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 CHRISTMAS DAY
31 DECEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

John Ireland, 1879-1962

The Holy Boy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. | 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found. |
| 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. | 4. 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 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

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 *(please be seated)*

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) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion; | 19 He sends forth his word and melts
them; * he blows with his wind, and
the waters flow. |
| 14 For he has strengthened the bars of
your gates; * he has blessed your
children within you. | 20 He declares his word to Jacob, * his
statutes and his judgments to Israel. |
| 15 He has established peace on your
borders; * he satisfies you with the
finest wheat. | 21 He has not done so to any other na-
tion; * to them he has not revealed his
judgments. Hallelujah! |
| 16 He sends out his command to the
earth, * and his word runs very swift-
ly. | |
| 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? | |

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 (*please stand, as you are able*)

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. Ted Holt

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)*

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?

*Refrain: 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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

AT THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,
and give us generous hearts to serve you in
all who claim your help.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-
where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty
power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his
mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to
become your children.

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.

continued

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 109

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to
certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

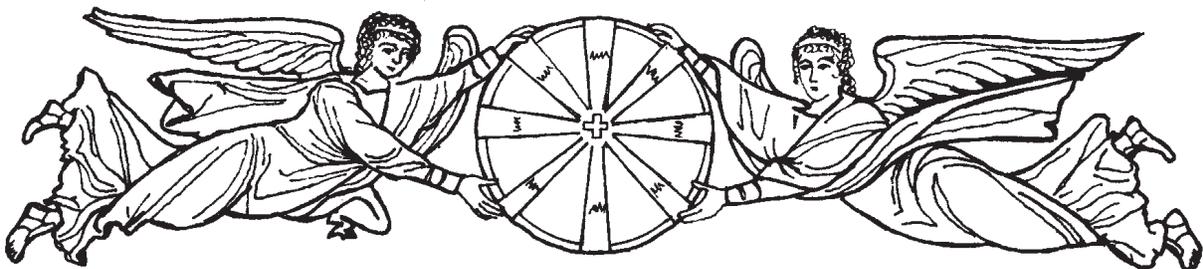
Refrain

THE DISMISSAL

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Johann Seb. Bach, 1685-1750

From heaven above



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@stfrancisgvaz.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.

Solo Journeters

The Solo Group will again be getting together for brunch on Sunday, January 7, at 11:45 AM at the Grill at Quail Creek. There will be a signup sheet in the Parish Hall this morning. Come and join us for a fun time of conversation and camaraderie. Contact Kristi Thompson (520-207-0465) for more information.

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*

This Week at St. Francis

Tuesday, 9a	Men's Group Conference Room
Tuesday, 2p	Retreat Committee, Conference Room
Wednesday, 9a	Holy Eucharist, Chapel
Thursday, 2p	Parish Choir, Loft

Green Team Update

Thank you Franciscans for the steps that have been taken to Care for Creation. Recycling has become more routine, earth friendly products have been sold, the St. Francis Green Team has expanded into the community and new trees have been planted in the parking lot. In addition, fewer paper products have been used during parish gatherings. When appropriate we encourage sharing bulletins and also using the hymnals to reduce the number of printed pages. These small steps make a difference! *Susan Burch*
sburch33@gmail.com

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

Your gently-read books needed

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

ary 2024, leaving them in the corner to the left of the Library door.

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

Remembering those who have died: Eileen Fanning

St. Francis in the Valley
Episcopal Church

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