



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 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: CHRISTMAS DAY**  
25 DECEMBER 2023

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

Alec Wyton, 1921-2007

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN 83**

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

2. God from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten  
Son of God the Father;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
glory in the highest;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

4. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

5. Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?  
*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;  
*O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

## 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

 God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus  
Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure  
confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (52:7-10).

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## THE PSALM (98) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

## The Epistle

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (1:1-4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL 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 GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John (1:1-14).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**I**n 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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**THE SERMON** The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**W**e 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**

*Celebrant* Loving Father of the One who has come, your Star rises in our hearts as we make our own journey to greet you. Bring us to the humility of the stable as we join our voices in prayer.

*The Lector continues*

**FOR THE CHURCH.** For your people gathered here in joy, and for those gathered throughout the world. Remind us of what it means to be faithful, even as Mary offered her womb, Joseph, the strength of his protection, and the shepherds their awe and wonder. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

**FOR THE WORLD.** For our nation and for all nations. Keep us mindful that the hopes and fears of all time, of all hearts, and of all spirits are met in you, and that you are Emmanuel, God with us. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

FOR THIS COMMUNITY. Let the light of your star illumine the shadows that hide the needs of those around us. Bring us your vision of justice and the courage to live it; the willingness to learn the names of those in need, and the compassion to respond as we discover you in each other. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

FOR OURSELVES. Open us ever more deeply to your Presence. Open our eyes to see by the stable lamp that we are created in your own image. Open our ears to hear the stars that bend their voices, and blend our voices with the stones that cry in praise of you. Forgive us when we fail you and give us the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE. That even as we greet the Holy Child, we may know the holy and joyous gift of their presence in our lives, and that we may come to know the truth of your love together. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER. Show them, through us, the brightness of your Star, the promise of your presence, and the hope of your healing, that they may know, in special ways, grace upon grace. Please feel welcome to add your personal prayers and petitions at this time. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. We rejoice that because of your birth, they now live in perfect joy, their spirit voices praising your name and reminding us that the absence we know is, by your grace, made full and holy. Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear Our Prayer.*

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.

*Lector 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.

*Celebrant* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 79 stanzas 1-3, 5**

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

#### **AT THE PRESENTATION**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, accept all we offer you this day,  
and give us generous hearts to serve you in  
all who claim your help.

*We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*People* Amen.

#### **AT THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

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

Because 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 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...

...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* 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 87

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;

hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with man to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!*

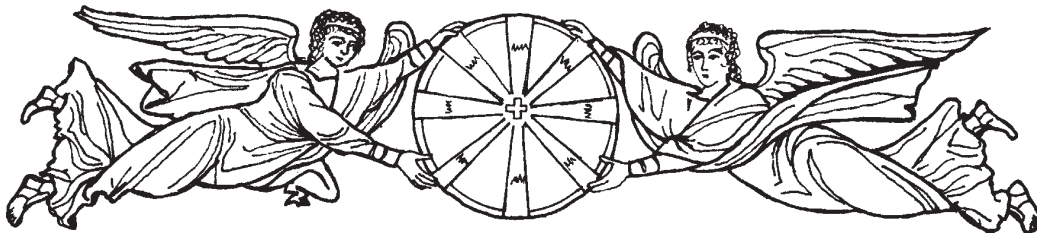
3. Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!*

## THE DISMISSAL

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

*O Run, Ye Shepherds*

Max Drischner, 1891-1971



Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!!

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

May 2024 be a year filled with much happiness and blessings! *Fr. Warren*

Christmas Flowers

*Flowers in honor of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ are given by* **Chris & Ginny Arundell** in love and peace for their family, Arundells and Garays; **David W. Blackburn** in memory of Jeanette Blackburn, Milton Blackburn, and Peter Blackburn; **Ruth Bradley** in memory of Jim Bradley; **Gloria & Tom Cadwalader** in thanksgiving for the Cadwalader and Yankoviak children, and in memory of deceased members of the Cadwalader and Bowen Family; **Jann DallaMura** in loving memory of Capt. Bart DallaMura, usn Retired, Ira & Alice Brin, and Bart & Elizabeth DallaMura; **Jack Davis** in memory of Roberta Davis; **Joyce Davison** in memory of Carol Stephens; **Mizzi Diamond & Tim Doyle** in memory of their children Elizabeth, Scotty, Kimberly, and Kelly; **Sherry Evans** in memory of Bill, Jerry, Jim and Scotty Evans, and Ralpa, Sonya and Susie Sellers; **Carolyn Gates** in memory of Col. A.A. Heidner and Louise Star Heidner; **Linda Hempel** in memory of Tom Hempel, Phyllis Hempel, and Bob Hempel; **Wendy Hill** in memory of her brother-in-law Tony Johnson and her sister Jean Kingsnorth; **Eva Jenkins** in memory of her parents Reuel &

Vera Walter; **Reg Kahrmanis** in memory of Frances & George Kahrmanis, and Richard Kahrmanis; **Joyce Kaminski** in memory of her parents; **Pat McCarthy** in memory of Brian McCarthy; **Jan Misner** in memory of Helen Misner and James Lawrence; **Paul & Janet Ohri** in memory of Ken Krupicka and in thanksgiving for the health of Paula Chamberlain; **Linda Pantoja** in memory of her mother Louise Pixley and in thanksgiving for her son Paul Pantoja and daughter Cindy Griffith, and for many blessing bestowed on her family; **Norma Pool** remembering family and friends, here and gone; **Erik Ringkjob** in memory of Barbara Ringkjob and Erling Ringkjob; **Jack Ross** in memory of Kathryn Draper, Everett Draper, Cora S. Ross, Murdock Ross, Sr., and Andrew Scott Ross; **Stephen & Diane Schwarzmenn** in thanksgiving for God's many blessings; **Nancy Symons** in thanksgiving for daughters Kristin and Allyson and their families; **Kristi Thompson** in memory of Paul Thompson; **Bob & Sharon Thornby** in gratitude for their many blessings; **Donna Tolbert** in memory of Ed & Peggy Langley, Miriam & Wes Dow, Jane & Tom Carter, Tim Goodell, Adam Langley, Kevin Langley, Dewey, Lois & Steve Owens, Gwen & Bob McKinley, Forest Shirley, and Joe & Ann Lenihan; **Bobbi Tucker** in memory of those loved and lost, both human and canine; **Judy, Joe & Rae Turberg** in loving memory of Edward Francis Turberg; **Elaine Walker** in memory of her parents Joe & Florence McNaught; **Becky Williamson** in memory of Sue Moody, Woody Williamson, Jinny Reedy, Cap Moog, and Jim Williamson.

St. Francis in the Valley  
Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, *Bishop*

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch,  
*Rector*

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The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*