



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 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: CHRISTMAS EVE
24 DECEMBER 2020

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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 have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true
Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may
also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and
reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from The Book of the Prophet Isaiah (9:2-7).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM (96) *Please respond after the asterisk.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
 before the Lord when he comes, *
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.

The Epistle

A Reading from the Book of Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 96

1. Angels we have heard on high,
 singing sweetly through the night,
 and the mountains in reply
 echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why these songs of happy cheer?
 What great brightness did you see?
 What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
 him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee
 Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid
 whom the angels praise above;
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
 while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke (2:1-20).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch

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.

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN 79

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.

4. 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

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,

People And of thine own have we given thee.



In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

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,

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.

Hymn 111

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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

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.**

Prayer Chain

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

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 various 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

Coffee Zoom!

Join Fr. Warren for a mid-week coffee break via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10 AM. You can get the necessary link from Beth-el (email her at bethelklein@stfranciscgvaz.org) or directly from Fr. Warren (frwarren@stfranciscgvaz.org).

Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group is meeting once again, but on Zoom rather than in-person. Meetings include 25 minutes of silence followed by a short *Lectio Divina* and a few minutes for community reflection. If you would like to join in, get in touch with James or Sophie Luffman: James at jmluffman@hotmail.com or Sophie at sophieluffman@hotmail.com. They will be pleased to hear from you.

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 people in order to alleviate the burden of being here every Sunday. If you're interested, please email Fr. Nelson directly at nelson@stfranciscgvaz.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 contribute to it 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.

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.

St. Francis in the Valley

Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddell, *Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Rector*

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, *Curate*

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

J. Michael Case, *Organist*