



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 EVE
24 DECEMBER 2023

ORGAN PRELUDE

Carols of Christmas

arr. Kristine Johaneck

The St. Francis Handbell Ensemble

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 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.

continued

- 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 Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch



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

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.

THE OFFERTORY

*Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)*

AT THE OFFERTORY

Gerald Near, b. 1942

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

-words: traditional

-melody by William James Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

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

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

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 happi-
ness and blessings! *Fr. Warren*

Christmas Flowers

Flowers in honor of the *Feast of the Na-
tivity 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 Black-
burn, Milton Blackburn, and Peter Blackburn;

Ruth Bradley in memory of Jim Bradley;
Gloria & Tom Cadwalader in thanksgiv-
ing for the Cadwalader and Yankoviak chil-
dren, 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 Dia-
mond & Tim Doyle** in memory of their chil-
dren 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 Schwarzmann** 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*

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

The Rev. Linda Hutson, *Deacon*

The Parish Choir

Gerald Near, *Director of Music*

J. Michael Case, *Parish Organist*

The St. Francis Handbell Ensemble

Sophia Witte, *Director*