



**Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, AZ**

July 25, 2021

Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor
Elder Fred Whitley, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Bianca Garcia, Video-Tech Assistant



PRELUDE *"I Hear Thy Welcome Voice" - Peterson*

GREETING One: This is the day that the Lord has made!
All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

INTROIT *"Surely the Presence"*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

We gather this day, and much is visible:

Our smiles may show our joy; our eyes may speak of pain.

We come to this place, seeking signs of the living God:

We may sense something holy here; we may reach out to mystery.

Will we see God today? Will our living make God's love visible?

Let us worship God, Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.

OPENING HYMN *"Our Hope, Our Life" #847*

*Our hope, our life are in the Lord,
the God we honor and confess.
Why crave renown or opulence?
They fade, those things we now possess.*

*Though wealth or learning may be ours,
or fame that spreads throughout the land,
the shackles of mortality
prevent so much that we have planned.*

*Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power,
but what they cherish will decay;
and still the ransom for a soul
remains a price too great to pay.*

*Beyond this age of shame and sham
we glimpse a better destiny:
The Lord will lift us free from death
to dwell in praise eternally.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving and merciful God, you know our hearts and you know our lives. We confess to you that which causes separation, that which causes pain, that which causes distress, and that which breaks down. We confess to you our part in those things. And in humility and hope, we ask for your help to do better, to reconcile, to heal, to soothe, to build up. So may we love you and neighbor, and follow our Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

One: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

CHILDRENS TIME Debbie Wood

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Solid Rock" - arr. Raney (instrumental)

SCRIPTURE – the Epistles Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SCRIPTURE – the Prophets Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you,

says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

*Holy wisdom, holy word, **thanks be to God.***

SERMON

“Planting Hope”

Part 8 in the series Faithful Saints

RESPONSE

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Live in Hope” #772

*Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God’s own jubilee!*

*Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one’s daily bread,
to hear God’s word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“May the God of Hope Go with Us”* #765

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

POSTLUDE *“Festal Trumpets”* - Rawsthorne