



**Faith Presbyterian Church  
Sierra Vista, AZ**

November 28, 2021  
Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor  
Randi Williams, Worship Leader  
Janis Wheat, Director of Music  
Bianca Garcia, Video-Tech



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***~ At the sound of the chimes, please use this time to silently prepare for worship. ~***

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**PRELUDE**      “People Look East” - arr. Cherwien (recorded music)

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

**CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT**      “Prepare the Way of the Lord” #95 (sing twice)

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

One: Can one be homesick for something you’ve never known?

All: We are homesick for a just world,  
for peace like rivers,  
for the end of suffering.

One: Yes, we are homesick—

All: for joy that is contagious,  
for nations that feel like neighbors,  
and for hospitals that run empty.

One: We are homesick for the world God promises.

All: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

One: God is here. God is still creating.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

**\*OPENING HYMN**      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      #88      Verses 1-3

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height  
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

Gracious God, we find ourselves with two options every day—  
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world.

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

*(silent reflection)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope,  
God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's  
home. So hear and trust this good news:

All: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love.

We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

**WELCOME**

*We invite all our guests to identify themselves as they wish.*

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHILDRENS TIME – Lighting the Advent Wreath** - Stephen Ministers  
Pam Winters, Ruth Van Otten, Debbie Wood

**ADVENT SONG**

*Light the Advent candle, one: now the waiting has begun;  
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #82*

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts along;  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE – the Prophets**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

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

### **SCRIPTURE – the Gospels**

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

## **SERMON**

### **“Homesick: Longing for Home with God”**

*First in the series “Close to Home”*

## **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.***

## SHARING OUR PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### 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.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

#### \*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.*

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

#### \*CLOSING HYMN

*"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

#104

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a right?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love,  
all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

### BENEDICTION

#### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"While We Are Waiting, Come"* #92 (verses 1 & 3)

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting come.  
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

*Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

**POSTLUDE** *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* arr. Cherwien (recorded music)



**Sunday, December 05**

- *Caroling after church to homebound* - song sheets, hats, and bells provided – Sign up in narthex

**Sunday, December 12**

- *Choir Cantata during worship*

**Wednesday, December 15**

- *Deadline to bring toys for the Child & Family Resource Center*

**Saturday, December 18**

- *Blue Christmas - 3:00 pm* - This service is for anyone who needs a quiet and reflective service

**Sunday, December 19**

- *Communion - Children's Pageant Video*

**Friday, December 24**

- *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm*  
Our traditional service of scripture and carols

**Sunday, December 26**

- *Caroling and Guest Speaker, Elder Kay Travis*

