



**Faith Presbyterian Church  
Sierra Vista, AZ**

December 5, 2021

Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor  
Elder Dave Rockwell, 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. ~**

**PRELUDE**            *"A Christmas Pastorale" (from The Christmas Concerto) - Valentini*

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

**INTROIT**            *"Advent Song"*

*Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who  
Filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

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

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

**All: It sings of a home for all.**

One: We could choose to ignore it.

**All: We could drown out that song.**

**We could choose not to listen.**

One: Instead, we come into this space.

**All: We let the world grow quiet.**

**We listen.**

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

Do you hear it?

**All: We hear it. In listening, we worship.**

One: Let us draw near to God.

**\*OPENING HYMN        "Once in Royal David's City"    # 140    Verses 1-3**

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.*

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

Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable moments. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

*(silent reflection)*

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

One: Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in 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** Elder Richard Carter

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Pat-a-Pan" - Scholes Faith Tone Chime Choir

## SCRIPTURE – the Prophets

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

## SCRIPTURE – the Gospels

Luke 3: 7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

## SERMON

**"Home for All"**

*Second 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

*"Canticle of the Turning"*

# 100

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day your bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

*Refrain:*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne,  
the hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

*Refrain:*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and road can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around*

*Refrain*

## 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 *"The Bell Carol"* - Leontovich



### 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 Resources*

### 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*

