



Faith Presbyterian Church

Sierra Vista, AZ

December 12, 2021

Elder Richard Carter, Worship Leader

Janis Wheat, Director of Music

Bianca Garcia, Video-Tech



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

PRELUDE *"Hark, the Glad Sound!"* - Broughton

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

INTROIT *"Zachariah's Lullaby"* - Strickland / Kirkpatrick

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Faith Presbyterian Church Quilters
Jane Bourne, Ruth Akins, Pat Wettack, Nancy Slater

ADVENT SONG

*Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

One: If life was a home, then we would pray—

All: **May love be the foundation.**

May God be the cornerstone.

May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

One: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

All: **We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.**

Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

Let us worship Holy God.

***OPENING HYMN** *"Prepare the Way, O Zion"*

106

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.*

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

*Fling wide your gate, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

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

Holy God, when John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it.

We forget that in the beginning we were made good.

We doubt that we could possibly be enough.

We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection.

We deflect words of praise.

We hide behind shiny first impressions.

Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job.

Open our ears as you open our hearts,

so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

(silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

One: Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us:

"You are loved; you are forgiven."

That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home.

So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation.

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

CANTATA – (Separate Bulletin)

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 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” #93

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE “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.*

POSTLUDE “Let Our Gladness Have No End” - arr. Cherwien (15th Century Bohemian Carol)



Today, 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*

