



Faith Presbyterian Church

Sierra Vista, AZ

December 19, 2021

Rev. Renée Rico, Pastor
Townsend Family, Worship Leaders
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 *"Candlelight Carol"* - Rutter

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

INTROIT *"O Come, Little Children"* - Schmidt / Schultz

ADVENT SONG

*Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH The Townsend Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are seeking—

**All: deeper faith, a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

One: We are seeking—

**All: joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

One: We are seeking—

**All: the freedom to be, the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

One: We are seeking, but here in this space,

All: We are found.

One: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

All: God is here. We are found. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"What Child is This?"

145

***What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!***

***Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christ, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!***

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!***

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

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. At times we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

(silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

One: Rest in this promise: if we get lost, we will be found.

If we mess up, we are forgiven.

If we withhold love, God is lavish in loving us.

All: We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

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 Video presentation by our children

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Like A Child*” - Damon Heather Carter, Soloist

SCRIPTURE – The Gospels Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

REFLECTION

“Home Across the Miles”
Fourth 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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*CLOSING HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

113

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!*

*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

"The Angel's Harp" - arr. Barr



Today, December 19

- *Communion - Children's Pageant Video*

Friday, December 24

- *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm*
Our traditional service of scripture and carols
- *Christmas Offering will be given to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program specifically for the tornado victims.*



Sunday, December 26

- *Caroling and Guest Speaker, Elder Kay Travis*