

*...they will call him,*



*Emmanuel.*

Matthew 1:23

# FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA



Rev. Renee Rico, Transitional Pastor  
Janis Wheat, Director of Music, Organist  
Debi Godwin, Choir Director  
Readers: Joy Church, Rio Cordova and  
Jesse Cordova



---

Order of Worship

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

---

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

*At the sign of the \*asterisk, all who are able please stand.*

## CHRISTMAS CHIMES

PRELUDE

"O Holy Night!"

- arr. Hess

WELCOME

POEM

"Come on Home"

Rev. Sarah Speed

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

**All: to carry Christ into this world.**

One: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

**All: to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

One: The shepherds were invited—

**All: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.**

One: The Magi were invited—

**All: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

One: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

**All: then we can trust that we too are invited.**

One: This story is for us.

**All: This love is for us.**

One: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

**All: Amen.**

\* CAROL

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful” #133 verses 1,3,4**

O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come Ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, Born the King of angels!  
O Come, let us adore him; O come, Let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**The Townsends**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

Holy God,

You throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith, even when we fail to trust God's love,  
and even when we fail to love others as we should,  
God still loves us. That door never closes. So hear and believe this  
good news:

**God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## A PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2-7

### \* CAROL *"Come, Thou, Long-Expected Jesus"* #82

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set they 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 alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### CAROL *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

#121 vs 1-2

O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### THE BIRTH

Luke 2:1-7

**\*CAROL**      ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***      #119 vs. 1-2

Hark! The Herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king,  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, off spring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

**THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS**      Luke 2:8-14

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *"Fall On Your Knees"* - Choplin  
Faith Choir

**THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**      *"Silent Night"*      - Gruber/Mohr

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**      John 1:1-5

**\*CAROL**      ***"Joy to the World"***      #134 vs 1, 2, 4

Joy to the World! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the World! The Savior reigns: Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

**MEDITATION**

**The Rev. Renée Rico**

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CAROL

“Silent Night”

#122

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Night of Wonder” - Smith

We are thankful to God for guiding you here this evening and we are happy that you have chosen to worship with us. We hope that this service has been a blessing to you.

Follow the Star to Faith on the 2nd Sunday of the new year, January 9, Epiphany. It is a special Sunday during which everyone receives a star with a word on it. You will be invited to reflect upon the word throughout the year. This Sunday is affectionately known as "Star Word" Sunday.



This year the Christmas offering will be given to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program specifically for the December tornado victims. Please give generously to help so many families in need.