



**Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, AZ**

January 2, 2022

Rev. Laura Munroe, Guest Preacher
Bill Brouwer, 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

Rise Up, Shepherd!

– arr. Peterson

GREETING

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

INTROIT

The Colours of Christmas
Debi Godwin & George Wheat

-- Rutter

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

One: Even when we encounter folks who are mean, dishonest, hateful,

All: we are called to respond with that love which is true and sincere.

One: God calls us to love all people as if they were our sisters and brothers,

**All: for God seeks to weave us into one family,
tearing down all the barriers between us.**

One: No matter how weary we become from our loneliness, our struggles, our service,

All: God challenges us to be patient, to rejoice, and to never stop praying.

One: Why should we do all things?

**All: Because we are God's people, called to lives which are different,
and which make a difference!**

***OPENING HYMN**

“Gather Us In”

#401

Verses 1,2 and 4

***Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.***

***We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.***

***Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.***

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

You know us, Watching God. You know who we are, people who find it easier to hold on to all we do that is wrong, rather than clinging to goodness. You know what we do, when we ignore the poor, or refuse to live at peace with others. You know why we do all these things, for we continue to set our minds on all those temptations which insinuate themselves into our lives.

You do indeed know us all too well, Steadfast Love. Yet, you continue to be patient with us and forgiving towards us. Yet, you would embrace as we turn towards you in repentance, rather than washing your hands of us. Yet, you would continue to call us to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so we might find our life with you. Amen.

(silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)**

One: This is the good news for us, my friends:

God remembers us and forgives us, so we might live as people of love and hope.

All: We will sing our praises to the One who has made us whole.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

*One King
Debi Godwin & George Wheat, Duet*

– Borders & Alexander

SCRIPTURE – The New Testament Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

SERMON

"Preparation for That Moment"

The Rev. Laura Munroe

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

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

#716

*1 God, whose giving knows no ending, From your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, Off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.*

*2 Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at your throne.*

*3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted, Gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, And to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving you by loving all.*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

#136

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
 Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

POSTLUDE

Shepherds

– *Martin*

About Laura Munroe

Our guest preacher today is the Rev. Laura Munroe. Laura Munroe serves as a hospital chaplain in Tucson where she lives with her husband Brad. She is discerning and discovering her ministry path in the midst of the pandemic after her ordination by ZOOM in November of 2020.

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, January 9th

10:30 am We will celebrate **Epiphany Sunday** in morning worship with Star Words and Reaffirmation of our baptisms.

3:00 pm Ordination service for Joy Church to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. This is a special service officiated by de Cristo Presbytery, but it is also our send-off to Joy and her husband Gary as they move to Nebraska for Joy's new call.

Saturday, January 15th

11:00 am Memorial Service for Janet (Jani) Klucsarits

Pastor Renee is on vacation from December 26th through January 6th. Elders Joy Church and Kay Travis will be covering for pastoral emergencies. Joy's cell is ((520)220-2431, Kay's cell is (870) 820-4110 – text if you can because cell coverage at her home is spotty.