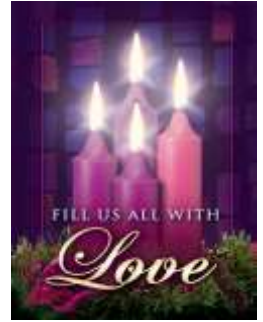




# FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Rev. Brian Louis, Pastor  
Elder George Wheat, Worship Leader  
Janis Wheat, Director of Music  
Debi Godwin, Choir Director  
Jeff Durham, Video Tech



---

Order of Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

---

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

## CHIMES

**PRELUDE**            “Love Came Down at Christmas”   arr. Thygerson

**GREETING**            “This is the day that the Lord has made!”  
***We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

**ADVENT READING** - George and Ruth Van Otten

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

**ALL:** *Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love with us. Amen.*

**CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT** - “Advent Song” (verse 4) - Walker

***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.***

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

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,                      Isaiah 11:1-2a, 6

***And a branch shall grow out of his roots.***

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,

***The spirit of wisdom and understanding***

The spirit of counsel and might

***The wolf shall live with the lamb,***

The leopard shall lie down with the kid

***The calf and the lion and the fatling together***

And a little child shall lead them

**Come Lord Jesus, come!**

**\* OPENING HYMN      “Prepare the Way, O Zion” - #106**

**\* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

***As we approach your arrival Lord Jesus, we glorify and thank you. We thank and praise God for God’s incarnation in the world, giving us the gift of love. For as scripture says, God is love. However, we do not always love our fellow human beings. We ignore those in need because we are selfish and only concerned with our own comfort. We say cruel things to people we know and don’t know. We fail to live up to your command to love one another. Dear God, instill in us your love and compassion for all. Amen.***

(silent reflection)

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

God has shown God’s mercy through the ages.

***Even though we turn away from God, God is always there with forgiveness and love.***

God has shown God’s love for us in sending Jesus the Christ to us.

***We anxiously await the arrival of the Prince of Peace and Mercy!***

The Lord is kind and merciful. Friends, believe the good news!

***In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!***

**\* 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** - *“No Wind at the Window”* arr. Bell  
Heather Carter, solo; Richard Carter, guitar

**SCRIPTURE - OLD TESTAMENT** - Isaiah 7:10-16  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. ***Thanks be to God.***

**SCRIPTURE - NEW TESTAMENT** - Matthew 1:18-25  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. ***Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON** - *“Love is the Answer”*

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD**      **“THE APOSTLES’ 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 THE 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, for ever. Amen.*

**RECEPTION OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** - *“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild”* - Traditional

**\*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 - "Love Has Come" #110**

**\* 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.*

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Please be seated for the short congregational meeting.

**\* POSTLUDE** "Christmas Prayer" - arr. Zepp

These are the words to the Postlude music:

*Hear our prayer this Christmas time,  
We give thanks for love divine,  
For the manger lowly,  
For thy gift so holy,  
Lead us, bless us, guide us,  
Ever walk beside us,  
May our lives so shine,  
Like the star divine  
That one day we may behold  
Our Christ, our King and Savior, Amen.*