

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

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



Order of Worship 1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Christmas Around the World Medley:

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" - 14th century French carol, traditional

"O Come, Little Children" - German, Schmidt & Schulz

"'Twas in The Moon of Wintertime" - Canadian Huron, Father Brebeuf

"Buon Natale" - Italy, Saffer & Linale

GREETING

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - "HOPE" - The Townsend Family

INTROIT *"Advent Song"* (verse 1) - Walker (Congregation sings)

Light the Advent candle, one; now the waiting has begun;

We are started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.

Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

* CALL TO WORSHIP – (responsively)

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but the word of God endures forever.

The day of the Lord is surely coming;

the promise of God will be fulfilled!

*** OPENING HYMN - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #82**

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

~ Let us take a few moments for silent reflection. ~

* THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

* GLORIA PATRI - Traditional

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (responsively)

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. The peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

(You are invited to offer your neighbor a brief sign of peace.)

THE WELCOMING OF GUESTS

We invite our guests to use the nametags in the attendance pads to identify themselves so that we may get to know each other.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS TIME - Elder Richard Carter

ANTHEM - *"Angels are Making Their Rounds"* - Choplin (Faith Choir)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 64:1-9

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. ***Thanks be to God.***

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Matthew 3:1-12

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. ***Thanks be to God.***

Christmas Pageant

“CHRISTMAS IS CHRISTMAS WHEREVER YOU ARE”

Written by Leanne Guenther; revised by Debi Godwin

Youth participating:

Bethany Dunn, Kozlynn and Benjamin Gulde, Bryanna and Donald Townsend,
Hunter, Hudson and Huck Rutgers

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 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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Joie Heeter and Jill Witt

SHARING OUR PRAYERS OF 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, forever. Amen.

RECEPTION OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY - *“Bells of Christmas Morning”* - arr. by Ryan (Faith Tone Chimes)

*** DOXOLOGY - Traditional**

*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 OFFERING**

*** CLOSING HYMN - “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #88 (verses 1, 5-7)**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE - “While We are Waiting, Come” #92 (vs 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.*

*** POSTLUDE - “Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord) Schwartz**

