

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

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



Order of Worship 1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

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

CHIMES

PRELUDE *“What Child is This?”*

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

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT - *“Joy to the World”* #134 (verse 1)

* CALL TO WORSHIP – (responsively)

I will proclaim the gracious deeds of God;
the steadfast love of the Lord is great.
Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,
the glory of God’s people and a light to all.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

* OPENING HYMN - *“Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple”* #148

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord

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

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

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life. 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

SPECIAL MUSIC - *“Heart of Worship”* - Redman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh— good news of great joy for all— so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Luke 2:22-40

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

SERMON **“Commitment to Worship”**

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.

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 - Medley: *"We Three Kings, Bring a Torch, Hark the Herald Angels"*

*** 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** - *"Once in Royal David's City"* #140

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - *"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"* #546
(verse 1)

* **POSTLUDE** - *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*



~ Let your light be a commitment in 2024! ~