

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE - *“Prepare the Way of the Lord”* - #95 (sing twice)

* POSTLUDE - *“Prepare the Royal Highway”* - arr. Cherwien



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

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

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

CHIMES

PRELUDE

“Once Again My Heart Rejoices” arr. Cherwien

GREETING

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - “PEACE” - The Rutgers Family

INTROIT

“Advent Song” (verse 2) - Walker (Congregation sings)

***Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds who
Filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.
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 voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

God has promised us a new creation,
Where righteousness will be at home.

Blessed is the Holy One our God,
Who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us!

* **OPENING HYMN - “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”** #97

* **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, we have not paved the way for you in our hearts and lives. We live lives of consumption and selfishness and we disobey your commandments. 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)**

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. 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 - “In the Bleak Midwinter” - arr. Durham Jeff Durham, piano

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 40:1-11

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

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – 2 Peter 3:8-15

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

SERMON

“Clearing the Way”

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 - “People Look East” - arr. Cherwien

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