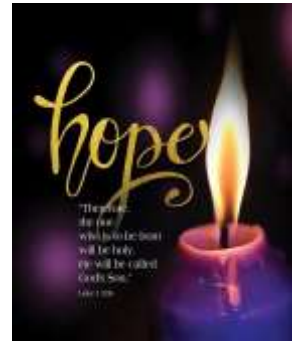




FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Rev. Brian R. Louis, Pastor
Elder Judy Pike, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director
Jeff Durham, Video Tech
Bethany Dunn, Video Tech



Order of Worship

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

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

CHIMES

PRELUDE *“People, Look East”*

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - “HOPE” - The Gulde Family

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *“Advent Song”* - Walker (Congregation sings)
*Light the Advent candle, one; now the waiting has begun;
We have 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 - “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”** - #85

* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

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

* THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace 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 - "Carol for Advent" - Besig and Price Faith Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Jeremiah 33:14-16

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

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Luke 21:25-36

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

SERMON - “Our Journey of Patience Begins”

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 - “Bethlehem Star”

*** 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

* BENEDICTION

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

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PLEASE BE SEATED.

* POSTLUDE - *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

