



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

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



Order of Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

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

CHIMES

PRELUDE *“Overture from “Unto Us a Child is Born” from Cantata No. 147 - J.S.Bach*

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - “Joy” - Gene and Sharon Raymond

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *“Advent Song” - Walker* (Congregation sings)
*Light the Advent candle, three: think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing “Peace on Earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

*** CALL TO WORSHIP – (responsively)**

We gather together today in anticipation and a spirit of joy to praise God.

Come Lord Jesus, Come!

We shout for joy because we are God’s children and God loves us all.

Dear God fill our hearts with love and compassion and thanksgiving for all the gifts you have given us!

We pray that we may be your faithful servants always and share your love for everyone we encounter.

Prince of Peace, we await your arrival and the ushering in of your Kingdom!

God, you are the source of all joy and peace in us and in the world.

Come Lord Jesus, come!

*** OPENING HYMN - “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” - #93**

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

Gracious and ever-loving God, you are love. You are the source of joy and we praise and thank you for all the gifts you have given us. We need reminding of those gifts daily, for our thoughts and agendas get in the way. Instead of sharing your joy with the people we meet, we are sources of discord. We gossip, we spread rumors, we judge, all against your command to love one another. Help us repent and turn away from our sins and turn toward your magnificent grace and forgiveness. Instill in our hearts the all-powerful love you show for us so we can share that with the world.

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

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

God is a never-ending fountain of mercy and forgiveness.

Our God’s grace gives us the chance to start over each day throughout the day.

Let us recognize that love and mercy and begin again right here and right now to be the people God knows we can be.

With the help of the Lord’s grace and love, anything is possible!

Friends, believe the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*** 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

SHARING OUR PRAYERS FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

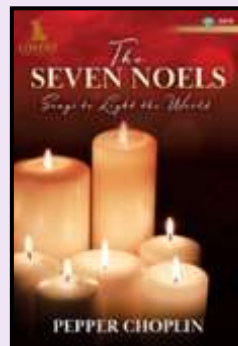
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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.

“The Seven Noels”

Songs to Light the World

By Pepper Choplin



- *“The First Noel We Long to Hear”*
- *“Prayer for Emmanuel”*
- *“The Second Noel - The Prophet Did Say”*
- *“Unto Us a Child Is Born”*
- *“The Third Noel - Mary Would Hear”*
- *“Give Your Fear to Faith”*
- *“The Fourth Noel - The Baby Was Born”* solo - Gretchen Herndon
Narration - Susan Powers
- *“Night of the Manger”*
- *“The Fifth Noel - The Angel Did Say”*
- *“Never Been a Night”*
- *“The Sixth Noel - Was Proclaimed By a Star”*
- *“A Star”*
- *“Beautiful Worship Noel”*

Many thanks to the combined choirs of Faith Presbyterian Church

And Sierra Vista United Methodist Church

Directed by Debi Godwin and Carl Coss

Accompanist - Janis Wheat

Instruments:

Violin: Lisa Heinemeier

Flute: Lilly Walton

Oboe: Brandon Brown

French Horn: Troy Lombard

Candles: Jamie Rutgers

Manger Scene participants:

Hunter Rutgers, Hudson Rutgers,

Huck Rutgers, Kozlynn Gulde,

Ben Gulde, Oliver Williams

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 OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY - "Still, Still, Still" - arr. Manz

*** 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, All Ye Faithful" - #133**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" - #88 (vs. 7)**

***O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*** POSTLUDE - "Hark, the Glad Sound!" - Broughton**