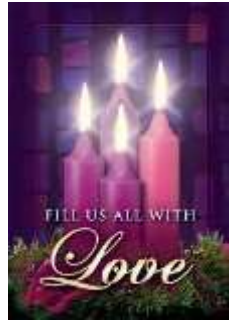




# FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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Order of Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

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

## CHIMES

PRELUDE “Ave Maria” - Schubert

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

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

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT “Advent Song” - Walker (Congregation sings)  
*Light the Advent candle, four: think of joy for ever more;  
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP – (responsively)

Look! The young woman is with child;  
*she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.*

The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

*To God be the glory forever! Amen*

A ruler will come from Bethlehem,  
*and he will be the shepherd of peace!*

\* OPENING HYMN - “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” - #112

## \* THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

***Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.***

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

## \* THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

Friends, hear the good news! In Christ, we are forgiven and made whole. We are called to be one in the Spirit, to love one another as Christ loves us.  
***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 - "Come, Child of Peace" - Schram (Faith Choir)

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

***Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen***

**OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Micah 5:2-5a**

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

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE – Luke 1:39-55**

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

**SERMON “May We Always Choose Love”**

**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 again 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**

Suzanne Johnson; Linda and Bruce Perkins-Murray

**SHARING OUR PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER**

**RECEPTION OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** - “Gesu Bambino” - Yon & Dockery  
Flute duet - Tina Durham & Lilly Walton

**DOXOLOGY** *Traditional*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Faither, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.***

## COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CLOSING HYMN - ***"Canticle of the Turning"*** - #100

## BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE - ***"While We Are Waiting, Come"*** #92 (vs 2 & 3)

***With power and glory, come; with power and glory, 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 - ***"Then Shall Your Light Break Forth"*** - Harris