



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Pastor Monica Russell, CRE
Deacon Marne Gulde, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director
Bethany Dunn Gulde, Video Tech



Order of Worship

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

~ GATHERING AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ~

CHIMES

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND GREETING

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY - The Rutgers’ Family

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT - “Advent Song” (Verse 3)

*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.*

PRELUDE - “Overture from “Unto Us a Child Is Born” - Bach, arr. Ritter

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Sundays of Advent are a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

The time is fast approaching for the awareness of God’s loving gift to us -- the gift of the Christ child.

Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God’s eternal love.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. AMEN.

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

* **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, with the assurance of God's forgiving grace, let us join our voices in confessing our sins.

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas, and we always have so much to do. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to join the hurry of Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us--not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. AMEN.

~ Let us take a moment for silent reflection. ~

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

The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is given for you. Rejoice! You are loved by God, now and forever.
Thanks be to God! Amen

* **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.

* **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.

* **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.)

CHILDRENS TIME - Elder Richard Carter

~ **HEARING THE WORD OF THE LORD** ~

“This is Christmas”

By Mary McDonald

During the time when Jesus was born, the world was experiencing great turmoil and hardship under the oppressive rule of King Herod. The people lived in a state of hopelessness and anguish, enveloped in spiritual darkness. For 400 years, the Word of God had not been heard, deepening their sense of despair. Yet, the birth of Jesus fulfilled ancient prophecies and offered renewed hope to all. God sent this child, this king, to earth for the purpose of redeeming the entire world. This beautiful cantata shares the familiar story of Christ’s birth and reminds us that this is the true heart of Christmas.

“Christmas Overture”

“This Is Christmas Love”

“Rejoice Emmanuel”

“He Shall Be Called”

“Soloist: Lisa Tuttle”

“Glory Shone Around”

“He Is Born, the Holy Child”

“Sleep in Peace Tonight”

“This Is the Child, This Is the King”

“Repeat the Sounding Joy / This Is Christmas (Reprise)”



Directed by Debi Godwin

Janis Wheat - Piano

Lisa Heinemeier - Violin

Lilly Walton - Flute

Brandon Brown - Oboe

James Fisher - Trumpet

Narrators: George Wheat and Paul Lewis

Many thanks to the combined choirs
of Faith Presbyterian Church and
Sierra Vista United Methodist Church.

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.

~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 - *"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine"* - Paxton

*** 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** - *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* #93

*** BENEDICTION**

~ TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD ~

*** BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

#85 (verse 3)

*** POSTLUDE** - *"Wake, Awake! For Night Is Flying!"* - Eliot