

~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OUR PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY - *“Advent Pastoral”* - Southbridge

* **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**

~ SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER ~
(SEE BULLETIN INSERT)

* **CLOSING HYMN** - *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”* - #107

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS

* **BENEDICTION**

~ TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD ~

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** - *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*
#85 (verse 4)

* **POSTLUDE** - *“Hark, the Glad Sound!”* - Broughton

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA



Monica Russell, Interim Pastor
Elder Judy Pike, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director
Bethany Dunn Gulde, Video Tech



Order of Worship

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 - LOVE - Rodney & Holly Seago

Gene & Sharon Raymond

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT - *“Advent Song”* (Verse 4)

*Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
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*

PRELUDE - *“Carillon on “Sleepers, Wake!”* - Nicolai, arr. Paxton

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the midst of the barren land, **flowers burst into bloom.**
In the midst of the dry desert, **streams of water gush forth.**
In the midst of sorrow and sighing, **joy and gladness dance together.**
We shall see the glory of God! Amen

* **OPENING HYMN** - *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* - #88

* CALL TO CONFESSION

We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love in the middle of commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty. Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us join in our prayer of confession.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News. But sometimes we are not able to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we are not able to share, because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them. In the multitude of ways that we can and have weakened your message of freedom and healing, we left the path of true wisdom. We call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ; you constantly open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service.

~ Let us take a moment for silent reflection. ~

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the time of God's favor - God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven and free people through the grace of God! ***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 so that we may get to know each other.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.)

~ HEARING THE WORD OF THE LORD ~

ANTHEM - "Carol for Advent" - Price & Besig (Faith Choir)

CHILDRENS TIME - Richard Carter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, you chose Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Sovereign and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now fill us with your grace, that like Mary, we may understand your ways, rejoice in your salvation, and embrace your will; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Isaiah 35:1-10

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON - James 5:7-10

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

SERMON - "IS PATIENCE A VIRTUE?"

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

(Based on Mary's song of praise in Luke 1:46-55; written by Ann Siddal)

Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he looks with favor upon us and sees our unrealized potential. In the tradition of Mary, and all who have said "yes" to God, we stand here today, to add our acceptance to theirs. Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed; we wonder if we are worthy or capable of following the calling. Like Mary, we have our questions, and we will not be afraid to ask them. Like Mary, we will hear and ponder the assurance that God will empower us. Like Mary we will strive to say: "Let it be with us according to your will." To whatever God is inviting of us at this time in our lives, and relying on God's grace, we say "yes."