FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA

Pastor Monica Russell
Deacon Heather Mayhew, Worship Leader
Janis Wheat, Director of Music
Debi Godwin, Choir Director
Elder Jeff Durham, Video Tech



Order of Worship **1st Sunday of Advent** **November 29, 2026**

As a courtesy to others, please turn off your cell phone in the sanctuary.

~ 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 – Gene & Sharon Raymond
Rodney & Holly Seago

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT – "Advent Song" (verse 1) (see insert)

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.

PRELUDE: *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* - Cherwien

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.)

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Advent is the season of watching and waiting for Christ's return.

It is an active waiting and watching for signs that Christ is returning in our world and in our lives in a new way.

Christ will come again in an unexpected way, and we must be ready.

Today is God's day of hope—hope for us and hope for all humanity.

The darkness that surrounds us will not overtake us, for God is light; and in God there is no darkness at all.[4]

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us worship God!

*** OPENING HYMN:** ***"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*** **-** #88

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgive us for speaking of love without loving our sister or brother, for speaking of faith without living your word, and for living as people who do not recognize our own sinfulness. Draw us back to the center which is You. Remind us that we have work to do. Help us to see what does matter. Lord, forgive us for the times we have seen pain without being moved, because we comfortably pass by poverty and sadness. A**men.**

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

*** THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news, people of God! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven**.** ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.***

*** GLORIA PATRI:** ***"Glory, Glory, Glory"*** **-** #584

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!
And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May 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: ***"Rise Up, Shepherd"*** **-** arr. Kern [Faith Choir]

CHILDRENS TIME: Richard Carter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Psalm 119:33-34)

O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. Help us welcome Jesus Christ by thinking good thoughts and doing good deeds so that we may be a people of hope in your world. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-11

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

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-15

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

SERMON: "I Hope Even When….."

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD: ***"Litany of Belief"***

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and we have been reminded of what we should be doing during that waiting. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, and the declaration that we have been redeemed. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow, that hatred and violence will continue to exist, and that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, and in our waiting and hoping, we pray that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. Amen.

~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OUR PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Please remember that our service is live streamed.)

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *"Advent Star"* - Martin

* **DOXOLOGY:** ***"Alleluia!" -*** #587

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

~ TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD ~

* **CLOSING HYMN:** ***"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" -*** #143

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

#85 (verse 1)

Light one candle to watch for Messiah;
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

* **POSTLUDE:** *"How Far Is It to Bethlehem"* - Stowey, arr. Manz