



December 10, 2023
Advent 2: HOPE Sunday

PRELUDE *Thou Didst Leave The Throne* Arr. Forest/Wagner

(As the Pastors enter, please lower your speaking as many use this as a time for prayer.)

POURING OUT OF WATERS/PASSING THE PEACE Pastor Craig

RINGING THE BOWL/CHOIR PROCESSION Pastor Diane

INTROIT *Surely the Presence*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

According to Luke, Mary said: “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word.” God of grace, you chose Mary to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Fill us with your grace, that with Mary, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will through the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

✠ **OPENING HYMN** *No Wind at the Window* 101

CALL TO PRAYER

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God of our salvation, you sent messengers as prophets to preach repentance, preparing the way of our salvation. Straighten the winding paths of our hearts, smooth the paths made rough by our sins. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness and bring to perfection the good you have begun in each of us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Grant us grace to heed the warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Silent prayer)
Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In accordance with God’s promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is at home. Brothers and sisters, believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✠ **GLORIA PATRI**

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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.

ANTHEM *Christmas Shines* G. Rhodes, T. Walker/Arr. M. Hayes
AJ Barrios, Cady St. Germain, Keaton St. Germain: Kids Choir

In the sparkle of the city string with shiny red and green,
In the star above the stable of a tiny manger scene,
In the hearts of all the people who believe in what it means,
Christmas shines.

In the Christmas card you open from a friend who's far away,
In the laughter and excitement as you wait for Christmas day,
In the story of the baby who was cradled in the hay,
Christmas shines.

Christmas shines in the hearts of believers who still feel that
childlike surprise;
Christmas shines like a Savior who leads us.
He puts fire in our hearts and hope in our eyes!

In the secrets and surprises, in the packages and bows,
In the faith that fills our spirits like a candle as it glows,
In the holy Child of Bethlehem whose love within us grows,
Christmas shines.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

CHORAL AMEN

CHILDREN'S TIME Lighting the Candle of Hope

Gracious God, in this second week of Advent, we ask You to fill our hearts with hope as we journey toward the birth of Your Son. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

By Your gift of hope, help us to desire You above all else, and fully trust Your promises. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Let Your gift of hope enlighten our hearts, minds, actions, and deepest desires. Let us hope in You, seeking only You as our true source of happiness. **Fill our hearts with faith and hope! Amen.**

Sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:

to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her

that her hard service has been completed,

that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out."

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“PREPARING FOR WHAT IF”

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed 35

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, died, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at 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.

✠ HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

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CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem with Reverie* By Debussy

****Please print your name in the fellowship register: Friendship Pads in the pews are a great way to meet your neighbor.***

***** If you have a special prayer request, please fill out the blue card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. There is also a box in the Narthex you may place it in as well. Our Pastors and Prayer Ministry Team will Pray for your request.***

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

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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.

✠ **HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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✠ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✠ **POSTLUDE**

Ding Dong! Merrily on High"

Arr. McDonald

✠ **All those who are able, please stand.**

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All Worship Services are available for replay on our website.

www.valleypres.net

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: Kylene Joplin, In loving memory of her sister, Carol Stephens.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED OR IN REHABILITATION: Bruce Nylund.

TODAY IS NOGALES CROSSROADS SUNDAY— Please drop off your non-perishables and toy donations in Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – Sunday, December 17, at 9:30 a.m.
"Everlasting Light" with a full orchestra and our chancel choir.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE— Thursday, December 21, at 4:00 p. in Spiritual Life Center. Followed by a light soup and bread.

CHRISTMAS EVE DAY SERVICE—Join us at 9:30 a.m. in Sanctuary for our 9:30 a.m. worship service and then at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve worship with Communion.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
October-2023		Through Week 49 (12/03/23)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 52,364	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	266
Monthly Giving Budget	61,839	* YTD 2023 Attendance Sanctuary	12,805
*YTD Giving Support	644,071	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	128
*YTD Giving Budget	647,820	** YTD 2023 Viewing On-Line	6,442
		* YTD 2023 Attendance / On-Line	19,247
		* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	10,725
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<i>S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2023 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member</i>			

WELCOME to all who enter this place. Drink deeply of the living waters of God’s grace as we worship together in spirit.

VISITORS: Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please enjoy a cup of coffee, lemonade and a cookie while visiting the Visitor’s Table in Fellowship Hall after the church worship service. You can pick up a Visitor’s Information Packet at the Visitor's Table or the Welcome Centers. If you would like to receive more information about us, visit us at valleypres.net where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

Children are invited to worship in the sanctuary then attend Sunday School after Children’s Time.



2800 S. Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
Telephone: (520) 625-5023

Web: www.valleypresbyterian.net

Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net



REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, *Head of Staff*

REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Associate
Pastor of Discipleship*

CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*

JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*

JAN BRACHEL, *Organist/Accompanist*

REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*

We are a Stephen Ministry Church