



The First Sunday of Advent: FAITH
December 3, 2023
Sacrament of Communion

PRELUDE *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* Arr. G. Young

(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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wisdom, come forth from the mouth of the Most High! You covenanted with our ancestors: a reality you would reveal, of future generations yet to be. Permeate all creation. Come, teach us the way to salvation. Adonai, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses, gifting identity and relationships in the Law on Sinai. Come with outstretched arm to save us. Root of Jesse, before you politicians and earthly rulers keep silent, as nations give honor. Key of David, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity. Come, reform us all, whom you formed of dust and clay, bringing to life with the whisper of your breath. Come, deliver us. Radiant Dawn, Sun of Justice, Come shine on those who have existed in darkness, in the shadow of death. Immanuel, Desire of the Nations, Savior of all, Come and save us!

✠ **OPENING HYMN** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* 81

CALL TO PRAYER

God of grace, ever faithful to promises, the earth rejoices in our Savior's coming, looking forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for the Messiah is LORD, forever and ever.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD of the future, coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not lived in expectation of your kingdom, for we live casual lives, according to our schedules, ignoring your promise. We have accepted lies as truth, exploiting neighbors, abusing the earth as refuse, refusing your justice and peace. In your mercy, we pray you forgive us. Grant us wisdom, to welcome your way, seeking ways that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. (Silent prayer) Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall no longer lift sword against nation, neither shall they teach war anymore. Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed! The night is far gone, the dawn is near. Brothers and sisters, believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✠ GLORIA PATRI

581

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 *Still, Still, Still* Austrian Carol/Arr. N. Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes,
let sleep surround you
Sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

CHILDREN'S TIME Lighting the Candle of Faith

Gracious God, in this time of Advent, we ask You to fill our hearts,
home and family with faith. **Come Lord Jesus.**

Lord, help us to follow you in faith. Help us be an example of faith
to others. **Come Lord Jesus.**

In this season of Advent, we prepare for Your coming. We ask for
you to cover our imperfections by faith, readying our heart for
Jesus' birth. **Come Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Matthew 1: 1-17

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the
son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah, father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, by Uriah's wife,
Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,
Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,
and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time
of the exile to Babylon.

After the exile to Babylon:
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Akim,
Akim the father of Elihud,
Elihud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Joseph, husband of Mary, of whom
Jesus was born who is called the Christ.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to
David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen
from the exile to the Messiah.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL AMEN

SERMON "FAITH'S PURPOSE"

✠ **HYMN** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* 129

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O, Come, All Ye Faithful with Sheeps May Safely Graze*
J.S. Bach, J.F. Wade/Arr. L. McKechnie

****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**

606

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**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.**

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please hold your elements until all may receive together)

✠ **HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

83

✠ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✠ **DISMISSAL**

Let There Be Peace On Earth

✠ **POSTLUDE**

In Dulci Jubilo

Arr. G. Young

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

.....
All Worship Services are available for replay on our website.

www.valleypres.net

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: Jean Hein, in observance of the beginning of Advent.

THE ROSE ON THE BAPTISMAL FONT IS IN HONOR OF: Phyllis Camp.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED OR IN REHABILITATION: Vic Valade

TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY— Please drop off your non-perishable items in Fellowship Hall.

TODAY—MUSIC IN THE VALLEY CONCERT—Tucson Jazz Institute
2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets are \$20.

MUSIC IN THE VALLEY – Tickets are on sale today in Fellowship Hall.
\$20 Individual concerts, or \$70 for Season Tickets (4 concerts)

CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND PEACE—Friday, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
October-2023		Through Week 48 (11/26/23)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 52,364	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	270
Monthly Giving Budget	61,839	* YTD 2023 Attendance Sanctuary	12,539
*YTD Giving Support	644,071	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	112
*YTD Giving Budget	647,820	** YTD 2023 Viewing On-Line	6,314
		* YTD 2023 Attendance / On-Line	18,853
		* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	10,448
0			
S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2023 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member			

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.

		REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, <i>Head of Staff</i> REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, Associate <i>Pastor of Discipleship</i>
2800 S. Camino del Sol Green Valley, AZ 85622 Telephone: (520) 625-5023		CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, <i>Parish Nurse</i> JAMIE REED, <i>Director of Music</i> JAN BRACHEL, <i>Organist/Accompanist</i> REV. JOE HAWKINS, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>
Web: www.valleypresbyterian.net Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net		
We are a Stephen Ministry Church		