

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

**Visitors:** Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please pick up a Visitor's Information Packet while enjoying refreshments just for you at our Visitor's Table in Fellowship Hall after our worship service.

\*Gesù Bambino is an Italian Christmas carol composed by Pietro Yon in 1917. The melody was used by Frederick H. Martens in his English carol "When Blossoms Flowered 'mid the Snows." The melody and lyrics of the chorus are derived from "Adeste Fideles," or "O Come, All Ye Faithful." The coming of Christ is drawing near, and we are invited to come and praise him!

**Rev. Mark Medina** is holding office hours on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at Coyote Grill at San Ignacio Golf Club. Feel free to drop in for coffee or iced tea.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** Today is the last day to sign up at the Information Table for Christmas poinsettias that beautify our Sanctuary and cheer up our shut-ins. Poinsettia plants will be \$10 each and must be paid when you sign up. If you would like to announce your plant donation as a memorial, please be sure to let us know when you sign up.

**Forming Your Faith:** Adult Sunday School Class. We continue the discussion of "Ain't Your Mama's Church Anymore." After worship, get a cup of coffee and some treats, and head into Classroom 5. We will start 15 minutes after the worship service. Your teacher: Eloise Fredrickson.

**Music in the Valley:** Tickets for Russell Ronnebaum (January 12, 6:00 p.m.) are on sale in Fellowship Hall after the service. Tickets for the Sanctuary Choir are also available (February 26, 7:00 p.m. and February 27, 2:00 p.m.). Because the Sanctuary Choir performances are ticketed events, no free-will offering will be collected and your ticket will go directly to support the Music Ministry. Tickets are valid at either or both performances!

**Neighbors AIM (Awareness in Memory loss):** Join us for a special Christmas event with music and support for those with early dementia and their caregivers and loved ones on Tuesday, December 19th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. Please join us and invite those who may need an uplifting event.

**Staff Appreciation Gift:** Over the years, the Valley Presbyterian Church members have given a special Christmas gift to staff members. Once again, we are providing envelopes in the pews today for those who wish to express their additional appreciation for the church staff. Envelopes can be sent to Annie Stitt at the church office. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas!

**Mission Quilts** will meet in Fellowship Hall tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please bring a snack when staying the entire time.

**Thank you to our volunteers!**

**Coffee Fellowship**

Dick & Marilyn Barney,  
Carol Wilking

**Information Center**

Pat Bruner, Carol Wilhems

**Medical Team**

Doug Clark

**Owl Express**

Richard Goetz

**Welcome Centers**

Carol Peeler, Roy Romstad

**La Posada Service of Worship**

Gee-Gee Smith, Sonya Larsen

**Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:**

Lance Barker, Carol DeLeo, Mary Shurigar,

**The Rose on the Baptismal Font Celebrates this Witnesses**

to the Resurrection in Jesus Christ



Florence Johnson  
Herb Egender  
Norman Benson

December 6  
December 8  
December 12



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**Sunday, December 24th**

**9:30 a.m. - Choir Cantata**

**Enjoy the Christmas story through music.**

**4:00 p.m. - Bed, Bethlehem and Beyond**

**See Christmas through the actions of children.**

**7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. - Candlelight Services**

**Be inspired by candlelight in**

**this quiet celebration.**

**The Source**

**Wednesday, December 20th—Healing & Hope**

**A supporting service, with hymns of hope and encouragement, scripture, a short message, healing prayers and anointing of oil for those who choose it followed by a Advent meal of soup and bread.**



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

Web: [www.valleypresbyterian.net](http://www.valleypresbyterian.net)  
Email: [vpc-office@valleypres.net](mailto:vpc-office@valleypres.net)

**We are a Stephen Ministry Church**



REV. MARK A. MEDINA, *Transitional Pastor*

REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor of Discipleship*

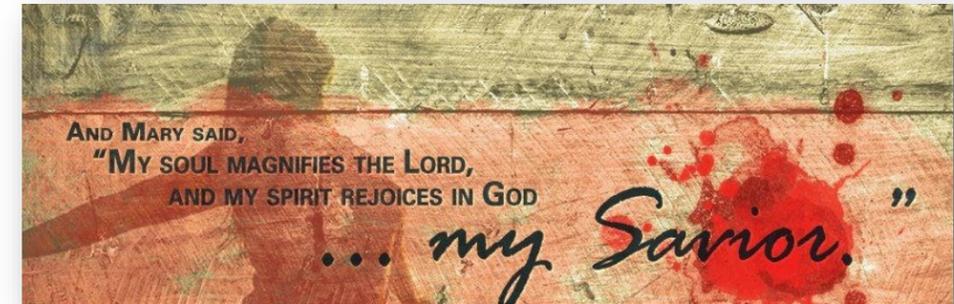
REV. DR. LINDA LLOYD, *Interim Pastor of Care*

REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*

STEVE RODINE, *Church Administrator*

JOEL PIERCE, *Director of Music*

CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*



**To know Christ and make him known through word and deed.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

† All those who are able, please stand.

9:30 a.m.

December 17, 2017

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Worship Ways

Holy God of Advent, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need Jesus as much today as in times of old. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair. As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen close. Let the voice of your angel fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.

**WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

Rev. Dr. Lloyd

*Please print your name in the Friendship Register provided in your pew.*

**POURING OF THE WATER**

*L: Jesus is the Living Water.*

**P: Praise be to God.**

**PRELUDE**

Yon

*Gesu Bambino\**

Pietro

Diane Hartley - soloist

**INTROIT**

*We Wait in Hope*

Joel Raney

Sanctuary Choir

All creation lies in waiting, in the stillness of the night,  
with hope anticipating the Advent of Eternal Light.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Grimsley & Carolyn Sittnick

*Leader: Advent is a time to prepare.*

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way of our God.**

*Leader: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.*

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way of our God.**

*Leader: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.*

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way of our God.**

*Leader: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.*

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way of our God.**

*Leader: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.*

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way of**

our God.

peace that we seek.

♣ **POSTLUDE**  
Kendall

Postlude on “*Adeste Fideles*” arr. Todd

**OUR WORSHIP NOW ENTERS THE WORLD!**

*Worship Aids/Sermon Notes*  
Sermon Title: “*The Messenger*”

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NIV)**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

**Luke 1:46b-55 (NIV)**

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the

**Women’s Ministries:**

As we move into the Advent season, mark your calendars for the Women’s Ministries Luncheon Gathering on Tuesday, December 19th at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our program will be working together to assemble gift boxes for ten people/families that have been recommended to us by Valley Assistance. Reservations can be made at the Women’s Ministries table today for \$11.

hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has

**We Wait in Hope**

Joel Raney



**LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES**

**CHOIR AND CONGREGATION SING**

**ADVENT PRAYER**

♣ **HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 3) Veni Emmanuel 9

**INVITATION OF PRAISE AND ADORATION** Rev. Medina

**PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION**

**Your deeds are mighty, O God, and your name is to be blessed forevermore. Holy is the One who comes in your name. As we gather in Christ’s name, so fill us with the Holy Spirit that our words may tell of your marvelous deeds. Let our songs of praise rise to you as our response of love and adoration. We praise you good and gracious God. Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF PRAISE**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE TO PRAISE** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!**

**ANTHEM** *Come To Us* Heather Sorenson

Sanctuary Choir

Linda Freeman - soloist; Pam Coggins - oboe

Come now, sweet Jesus, and take all our fears away.  
We have been waiting, and need You to come and save us.

Come to us, Jesus, and take all our fears away.  
We have been waiting. We need You to come and save us.

Take all our heartache. Take all our sin. Show us deliv’rance.  
Let healing begin.

Hear us in mercy. Protect us somehow.  
We are Your children. Come to us now.

Come to us, Jesus, and take all our fears away.  
We have been waiting. We need You to come and save us.

Hold up the weary. Lift up the weak. Help us and give us the

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & 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. Amen.**

**YOUTH CHAT** (September - May)

♣ **HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hyfrydol 2

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** Deacon Peggy Babcock

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Pew Bible p. 1157)

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 1:46b-55 (Pew Bible p. 1589)

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** “*The Messenger*” Rev. Medina

**MOMENTS OF SILENT REFLECTION**

♣ **HYMN** *In the Bleak Midwinter* Cranham 36

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

*\*If you haven’t already done so, please print your name in the Fellowship Register.*

**OFFERTORY** *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* Traditional German

Pam Coggins - oboe

♣ **DOXOLOGY** Old One Hundredth 592

**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**

♣ **HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Adeste Fideles 41

♣ **BENEDICTION**

♣ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With ev’ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow,  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.