



# Faith Presbyterian Church



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Order of Worship December 22, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

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16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City, AZ 85351-1604  
[www.scfaith.org](http://www.scfaith.org)

**THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP**  
**December 22, 2024 – 10:00am**

*\*The Congregation is Invited to Stand in Body or Spirit*

**Prelude**     “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” by Handel     Debra Senelly  
                  “Variations on Seven Christmas Hymns” by Lovelace

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Greg Emery

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in Your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that You have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Lighting of the Advent Candles:**

Bill & Laurie Cherry

**\*Call to Worship**

Through time and space, in the blink of the eye, the love of God stretched forth in the life of a young girl, asking that she be part of God's great plan of Salvation.

**Her name was Mary. She was not of wealth or power. She was a person, just like you and me.**

The Good News came first to the lowly.

**Even today, we believe that good news often comes only to the mighty.  
How wrong we are!**

Into a world where hatred and fear were commonplace, the Christ Child would be born.

**Fear and hatred are far too commonplace in our world. May the Christ Child come anew into our hearts this day.**

**\*Hymn**

**“O Holy Night”**

**O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

**Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend.  
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!**

**Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Lord, we are so excited. Christmas is almost here. We want to jump ahead to the holy, calm, and comforting worship service that we will hold this Christmas Eve. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind**

**us that Your love is blossoming in our lives. As we hear Mary say "Yes!" to God's good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into Your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for Your glory.**

### **Words of Assurance**

God's love and faithfulness have been at work in you. You are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God's love and blossom.

### **\*Gloria Patri**

#579

**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.**

### **\*Welcome Wave / Passing of The Peace**

**Choir Anthem:** "Peace, Peace, Peace"

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 1: 26-56

**Sermon** "The Women Speak Louder Than Words" Pastor Greg Emery

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **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.**

**Offertory** "Cradle Hymn" by Young

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#592

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication (Responsive)**

On my own  
what I have to give  
does not amount to much  
in the light of all You have given to me  
and in the face of so much need.

**Put together as a congregation,  
what we offer You here in love  
becomes more,  
not simply added together,  
but somehow multiplied in its usefulness.**

We ask You to bless our gifts  
and with the addition of your blessing,  
just as it was with the loaves and fishes,  
there is enough for all. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn**

“O Come Emmanuel”

#9

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.**

**[Refrain]**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]**

**\*Benediction**

Lift our minds now in anticipation of the voices which announce His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Go in peace.

**\*Postlude** "Carols of Joy and Gladness" by Smith Debra Senelly

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**Welcome Visitors! Faith Presbyterian Church welcomes you. Everyone is invited to Illingworth Hall for fellowship following the service.**

**Christmas Eve Worship Service – 4:00pm on Tuesday, December 24, 2024.**

**Fred Rothert Memorial Service will be Saturday, December 28, 2024 at 10:00am** in the Sanctuary with fellowship to follow in Illingworth Hall.

**Thank you** to Faith Choir, Debra Senelly, choir accompanist and Maria Sinley for their talented music today.

**The flowers this week are given to the glory of God** by Priscilla and Bill Hoskins for the family of Faith Church wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**PLEASE, if you are having money sent from your IRA account to the church,** give the Finance office the name of your bank or brokerage. Not all checks come with names, and the bank/brokerage will not give us that information. **THANK YOU!!!**

**Please pickup your giving envelopes located in the Narthex. Thank you.**

**Help Generate Community Awareness!** Faith Church window decals for your car are now available. You may purchase yours for \$6.00 before or after worship Sunday mornings in the Narthex.

**Faith Piecemakers & Yarn Angels 4th Annual Sale December is ending in Illingworth Hall.** Quilted and knitted goods with a large selection of Alaskan jams and jellies.
















**We appreciate live flowers.** If you wish to donate, please contact Anne Daughters contact info is in the directory. The cost is \$20 per bouquet. You can select flowers as memorials, special events or just to honor Faith church. Anne will work with you to see if you would like any special flowers or colors.

**Saturday, December 28, 2024 - Prayer Warriors will be postponed to January 11, 2025 due to Fred Rothert Memorial Service.**

**Contact information for: Rev. Anne Emery, Honorably Retired**  
contact information is in the directory.

**Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 11:00am – Illingworth Hall.  
The Sunday before Christmas - Selfies with Santa Day**

Gather your friends, family for a group photo. Here are some group ideas...

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|---|--|
|  Men's Fellowship Group                |  Presbyterian Women             |
|  The Choir                             |  Session                        |
|  Yarn Angels Knit/Crochet Group        |  Best Library Ever Book Club    |
|  The Cookies Queen & staff             |  Ushers                         |
|  The Faith Presbyterian Church Deacons |  Pals                           |
|  December birthday folks              |  2024-25 Little dinner groups  |
|  People who own dogs                 |  People who are owned by cats |
|  Name your own group                 |  |

or get a snapshot with just you and that jolly guy in red, our own in-house Santa, Dana Kovach.

There is no charge for this event, but an offering jar is available for funds going to our Children's Cup Belize kids, should you want to give. (Make check to FPC with "Cup" in memo section.) Cash is always welcome.

# Welcome!

*Welcome to those who have no church home, need strength, have doubt, want to follow Christ, or do not believe. Welcome to those who have worshiped in this place for years! Welcome to our first-time guests! Welcome to all generations, single people, couples, believers, and to questioners, and, of course, to questioning believers! We hope you find peace and uplift in our worship today.*

*We are very glad you are here!*

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor Greg Emery – [greg@scfaith.org](mailto:greg@scfaith.org)

## **MINISTERS All Members**

## **WELCOMING TEAM**

**GREETERS** Ben Glassley

**WELCOME CENTER** Deborah Hevesy and Jo Gilmore

**GOLF CART** Les Redden

## **USHERS**

Jerry & Barbara Burnett  
Laurie Cathey and JoAnn Whitt

## **AUDIOVISUAL**

Paul Willemsen  
& Bill Hoskins

## **STAFF**

**Office Manager** MaryJo Steger - [office@scfaith.org](mailto:office@scfaith.org)  
**Building Super** Peter Bugilan - [pbugilan@scfaith.org](mailto:pbugilan@scfaith.org)  
**Custodians** David Bergstrom  
Roger Cole  
Robert Bergstrom

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

**Office Hours**  
**8am-3pm Mon-Thurs**

623-974-3611

Pastor Greg:

ext. 104

Cell 731-345-6765

## **GENERAL E-MAIL**

[info@scfaith.org](mailto:info@scfaith.org)

## **WEBSITE**

[www.scfaith.org](http://www.scfaith.org)

## **FAITH CHURCH — MISSION STATEMENT**

Faith Presbyterian Church is an inclusive, welcoming, caring community, committed to serving Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God and to love one another. We worship, study and grow in understanding as we work for justice and peace in the world, inspired by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, great things are possible. (From Matthew 17:20)