



**ADVENT 3: NAZARETH – THE PLACE OF PREPARATION**

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TEMPE SPECIAL MUSIC: Advent Celebration,** Ringing Praise (*Sunday only*)

### **GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **ADVENT KYRIE:**

#### **Chorus:**

Light of heaven, shine upon us,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Promise given, shine within us,  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Hope eternal, shine before us, guide us with  
Your light

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

#### **Verse (Leader Only)**

For the peace that shines from heaven,  
and the hope your coming brings,  
For the church who walks in waiting,  
trusting you in everything, we pray:

© Text & Music: Joni Van Rossum

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Candle of JOY

**Reader:** Today we light the third candle; the candle of joy.

In Nazareth, God's messenger brought surprising news to Mary.

She rejoiced in God's favor and trusted His promise.

We rejoice too, for God's word still brings joy.

### *(Light Candle 3)*

**READER:** And all God's people say:

**ALL: The light of Christ shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

## GATHERING SONG: ELW 723 Canticle of the Turning (vs. 1-3)

**1** My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

### ***Refrain***

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

**2** Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last

from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might,  
put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

**3** From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
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## (GILBERT ONLY) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Manger Throne

### Verse 2

You could have marched in all Your glory  
Into the heart of Rome  
Showed them splendor like they'd never known  
But You wrote a better story  
In humble Bethlehem  
Creator in the arms of common men

### Chorus

Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

### SUNDAY TEMPE ONLY:

## TEMPE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2025

### *The Christmas Story presented by Children's Ministry*

### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-5

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **ADVENT GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

### **Refrain:**

On this road we walk in faith,  
Seeking signs of love and grace.  
Christ is coming, hearts prepare!  
Guide our steps with tender care;  
Oh Word of life, we meet you there.

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## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

<b>SERMON:</b>	
<p><i>"Nazareth"</i> Pastor Andrea Cain (<i>Sunday Tempe</i>)</p>	<p><i>"Nazareth"</i> Pastor Thaddeus Book (<i>Sat 5pm/Gilbert</i>)</p>

**(Sunday Tempe only) SPECIAL MUSIC:**

**The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came,** Graceful Harmony

**(Sat 5pm/Gilbert) SONG OF THE DAY: ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light** (vs. 1-3, 5)

**1** Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

***Refrain***

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

**2** Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

**3** Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

**5** Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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**(Sat 5pm only) SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:**

**Piper Lynn Baney, Evie Josephina Baney**

**PRESENTATION:**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Piper Lynn / Evie Josephina* baptized into Christ?

**PARENTS SAY: I do.**

As you bring your *children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *them* among God's faithful people, bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *their* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *them* in faith and prayer, so that your *children* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your *children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

**PARENTS SAY: I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Piper / Evie* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**SPONSORS SAY: I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support *Piper Lynn / Evie Josephina* and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**ALL: We do.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH:**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**PARENTS AND SPONSORS SAY: I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**ALL: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**ALL: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT:**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **BAPTISM:**

*Piper Lynn / Evie Josephina Baney*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Piper / Evie* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

*Piper Lynn / Evie Josephina, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

**ALL: Amen.**

**WELCOME:**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**ALL: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**(Sat 5pm only) PEACE:**

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a word of peace with our neighbors.*

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**(Gilbert only) APOSTLES' CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,**



**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**(Sat 5pm/Gilbert) PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

In hopeful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.  
We pray for ...

*Silent prayer*

Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Our Lord, come!

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.  
We pray for ...

*Silent prayer*

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Our Lord, come!

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter.  
We pray for ...

*Silent prayer*

Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you forever.

Our Lord, come!

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.  
We remember ...

*Silent prayer*

Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death.  
Our Lord, come!

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

By your coming, raise us to share in the hope of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**(Sunday Tempe & Gilbert) PEACE:**

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a word of peace with our neighbors.*

<b>MEAL</b>
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<i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i>
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**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

*The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for ELCA World Hunger.*

*You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at [www.desertcross.org](http://www.desertcross.org) with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel*

## **ADVENT OFFERING SONG: Waiting Here For You**

### **Verse 1**

If faith can move the mountains  
Let the mountains move  
We come with expectation  
Waiting here for You  
Waiting here for You

### **Verse 2**

You're the Lord of all creation  
And still You know my heart  
The Author of salvation  
You've loved us from the start

### **Chorus 1**

Waiting here for You with our hands  
Lifted high in praise  
And it's You we adore

Singing alleluia

### **Verse 3**

You are ev'rything You've promised  
Your faithfulness is true  
We're desp'rate for Your presence  
All we need is You

### **Chorus 2**

Waiting here for You with our hands  
Lifted high in praise  
And it's You we adore singing alleluia  
(We're) singing alleluia

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Martin Smith

CCLI Song #5925663

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### **(SUNDAY TEMPE only) PRAYER:**

Mighty and faithful God,  
you chose Mary to bear your Son, and  
through her trust you brought peace, joy,  
and love to the world. Your power brings  
light from darkness and hope from  
despair. We lift up to your grace and  
healing all people who are suffering. As we  
bring our offerings, we trust in your  
enduring promises, believing that you will  
use these gifts to reveal your love and  
fulfill your purposes in the world. Give us  
the faith to say yes to your call, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **(Sat 5pm/GILBERT) OFFERING PRAYER:**

Mighty and faithful God,  
Your power brings light from darkness and  
hope from despair. As we bring our  
offerings, we trust in your enduring  
promises, believing that you will use these  
gifts to reveal your love and fulfill your  
purposes in the world.

**Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION:**

### **(Sat 5pm/Gilbert only) CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

Leader: We come before God, confessing our need for the One who brings true joy.

*(Silence for reflection)*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have trusted in the powers of this world instead of your kingdom. We have chased after control instead of faith, and ease instead of hope. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may wait with open hearts for your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news: God's kingdom has drawn near.

Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, +  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

### **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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever.  
 Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.  
 All are welcome.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

*Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.*

## LAMB OF GOD: ELW p. 201 (Tempe Only)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS: ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat

### Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
 were gathered into one to become our bread;  
 so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
 be gathered into one in you.

**1** As this cup of blessing  
 is shared within our midst,  
 may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

**2** Let this be a foretaste  
of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you.  
*Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## **O Come to the Altar**

### **Verse 1**

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

### **Chorus**

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

### **Verse 2**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

### **Bridge**

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

### **Verse 3**

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye  
CCLI Song #7051511  
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## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Gracious God, as we gather at your table, we give thanks for the gift of Christ's presence in bread and wine. Renew our hope and awaken our hearts to watch and wait for his coming. Empower us to carry his light into the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BENEDICTION:**

May the joy of Christ guide your journey,  
the peace of God guard your hearts,  
and the Spirit go before you, +  
as you wait for the Savior of the world.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG: ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine**

**1** This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**2** Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**3** Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

### **DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE:**

**Thank you  
for supporting the Desert Cross mission.  
Here are the ways you can donate today:**

**ONLINE GIVING:**



Get your smart phone  
and scan the QR-code  
with your phone camera

**SECURE TEXT GIVING:**

Text "GIVE" to  
833-636-1502

**USPS:**

8600 S. McClintock Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85284

**Flower Donation:**

*The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given by Mike & Susan Maas in celebration of their anniversary.*