

**GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BULLETIN
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Intermezzo Op.76 No. 4”

J. Brahms
Val Strobel

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist - Mary Beth Szabo

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

People: Into the light of Christ’s presence.

Leader: We come from a world of weariness,

People: Seeking the strength of God’s Spirit.

Leader: We come trusting in God’s promise:

People: Our redemption is drawing near.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Rob & Jennifer Nagy

***MORNING PRAYER**

Rob & Jennifer Nagy

God of grace: on this first day of Advent, we ask you to send your light into our hearts. As we wait for Christ’s coming again, live in us and help us to live in you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that our preparation and our celebration may be pleasing to you. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

Hymn 134 vs. 1

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, who taught us to expect the unexpected: we confess that we are fearful people. We fear what we know and cannot control. We fear what we do not know and cannot predict. Forgive our fretfulness and teach us to trust you for today and tomorrow and whatever the future holds. Help us to be alert and prepared for Christ’s coming, that we might celebrate his birth with renewed joy and anticipate his coming again with great hope. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The words of the prophet Isaiah: Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid. People of God, hear and believe the good news. Salvation is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord who lived and died and rose again for us and intercedes for us at the Father’s right hand. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAISE SONG

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

P. Baloché

*Open the eyes of my heart Lord,
open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You. I want to see You.*

*Open the eyes of my heart Lord,
open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You. I want to see You.*

*To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
as we sing holy, holy, holy*

*Open the eyes of my heart Lord,
open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You. I want to see You.
Open the eyes of my heart Lord,
open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You. I want to see You.*

*To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love
as we sing holy, holy, holy*

*Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You.*

*Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You.*

GOD'S WORD FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE

Liturgist –Mary Beth Szabo

1ST scripture reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Righteous Branch and the Covenant with David

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

2ND scripture reading

Luke 21:25-28

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be

Rev. Mary Saylor

shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

SERMON

“Signs of the Times”

Rev. Mary Saylor

***HYMN**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Hymn 92

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the Offering Donations slot in the Sanitization Stations located at each entrance. You may also to go to the church’s website: <https://www.azgpc.org/giving-options.html> for giving options. We encourage you to continue supporting GPC’s ministry if you are able and thank you for giving what you can.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Gracious God...we pray together the prayer Jesus taught saying:

****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***

HYMN

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Hymn 367

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Pastor: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. And may the Lord so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

SENDING

Liturgist: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Response: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

“Impromptu Op.90 No. 3”

F. Schubert
Val Strobel



***Unison/the Congregation joins in**

Thank you to Val Strobel for filling in for Susan Martinez this morning.

Thank you to our Worship and Tech Teams, Susan Martinez, Matt Pitts, Gail Blackburn, David & Jennie Burel, Derek Burks, and Roy Martin.

Thank you to those Serving today:

Liturgist: Mary Beth Szabo

Hymn Leader: Matt Pitts

Ushers: Diane Howard, Sue Jax, Cheryl Williams

Announcements



ANGEL TREE AND CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

The Mission Committee is excited to announce that we are once again supporting Guadalupe Presbyterian Church (GPC West) during the holiday season. We will be collecting funds for **Christmas food boxes and will have about 50 Christmas angels to purchase gifts for.** This year the angel gifts will go to foster children in the area. Due to the ongoing pandemic we will deliver the gifts to Guadalupe Presbyterian and they will deliver to the homes. Look forward to seeing the angels on the Christmas tree after Thanksgiving. Angel gifts need to be returned to our church by no later than noon on December 19 for packaging and delivery to GPC West. **If you wish to donate funds for food boxes they are due by December 9. Put Guadalupe Presbyterian food boxes in the memo line.** Any questions please contact Ann Bernal

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A huge **Thank You** to all who committed their financial support to GPC for the coming year! Without this support it would be impossible for the church to physically operate and continue its mission of doing God's work in the world.

NEW ROLE FOR REV. SAYLOR

Rev. Mary Saylor has been our Pulpit Supply Pastor for a number of weeks. On December 1, she will become our Gap Interim Pastor (Half-time). This new position will include planning worship and preaching as before but will add more regular pastoral duties including administration and pastoral care. The term of service extends through April 2022 (which includes Easter) or sooner if a regular pastor begins before then. We are pleased to have "Pastor Mary" with us in her new role. She has already contributed much to GPC and we are thankful for that. All praise and thanks to God for watching over us. Frank Walmsley, Clerk of Session

A QUICK UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR SEARCH TASKFORCE (MODIFIED PNC)

We are still looking at resumes and continuing our search for the Permanent Pastor that God has in store for us. Please continue to hang in there with us!

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service will be held for David and Margaret McDougall on Saturday, December 4 at 3:00 at GPC. A reception will follow at the home of their daughter Cathy Shiroda. (1031 W. Coast Drive, Gilbert)

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

Our Bell choir will be rehearsing on Thursdays at 6:20 pm in Room 7 of the Palmer Center. If you are interested in joining the Bell Choir speak to Matt Pitts or Sue Jax.

GPC PHOTO DIRECTORY

We need your **photo** (individual or family) and **short bio** (individual or family) emailed to

Gaill Blackburn at GaillBlackburn@gmail.com for a **picture directory** to be given to our next Pastor as well as being shared with the congregation.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

For Advent, the class will view a Ken Bailey series on the birth of Jesus, a very pertinent topic for this season of the church year. Rev. Bailey's experiences from living in the Middle East give him the ability to show us how the Biblical account of the birth of Jesus is best understood when we know about the customs of the time. The first lesson will be about "no room in the inn" and the shepherds. The second will focus on Joseph. As in previous lessons by Rev. Bailey, we will gain greater appreciation for this important event. In the new year, the class will try something different. We will, each week, look at a specific word that either is not well understood or has had its meaning change over time. Come join us at 11 am each Sunday via ZOOM.

FALL SESSION OF THE VIDEO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

All are welcome to join us today at 10:45 am in the Overflow, for our Video Sunday School class. We'll be studying *The Chosen** and Cheri Peterson will be the lead teacher.

Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers can be seen in your local theaters! **For more information and to buy tickets - <https://www.peoplemustknow.thechosen.tv/>**

GPC General Information

FIRST TIME GUESTS

Welcome to our first-time visitors, if you are comfortable doing so, please stand or raise your hand so that we may welcome you.

REMINDER – Please silence all phones/electronic devices. Thank you.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME? If you're thinking about joining Gilbert Presbyterian Church, PC(USA), or would like a refresher course on what being a Presbyterian Christian means, please call the church office at 480-892-6753 to let us know of your interest.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The weekly Men's Breakfast now meets on **Tuesdays!** We invite all men of GPC to join us at IHOP (Baseline & Val Vista) at 8:00 am each Tuesday for a time of fellowship, lively discussion and fun!

NURSERY CARE – Nursery care is available in the Palmer Center for Nursery/Toddler care up to 5 years old with our Nursery Attendant Britney Blackburn.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

We invite everyone to join us following our worship service this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Palmer Center.

CLOSED CAPTIONING IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR GPC'S ZOOM MEETINGS.

Just click on "Live Transcript" on the bottom of your Zoom screen, then "View Full Transcript". Detailed directions are available on the bottom of our webpage

- <https://www.azgpc.org/zoom>. **CC is also available on our Sunday Livestreams.** On YouTube, simply click on the "CC" button on the bottom right of the screen. On Facebook, click on the "symbol that looks like a gear" on the bottom right of the screen, then click "Captions" to ON.



Happy Birthday to:

December 2: Joyce Johnson

December 3: Pam Russell

December 4: Dale Coe

December 4: Emily Nasiff

THIS WEEK AT GPC

Sunday, November 28

8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am – Online & In Person Worship Service

10:30 am – Coffee Time

10:45 am - Video Sunday School Class meets in the Overflow-

**11:00 am - Adult Bible Study Class
via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/4808926753?pwd=K3J3bk9CND FsdlI2ZCtuOGxCL2FzZz09>

Tuesday, November 30

**8:00 am – Men's Breakfast at IHOP
(Val Vista and Baseline)**

Wednesday, December 1

6:30 pm – Worship Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 2

6:20 pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 4

3:00 pm Memorial Service for Dave & Margaret McDougall

Sunday, December 5

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:30 am – Online & In Person Communion Worship Service

10:30 am – Coffee Time

10:45 am - Video Sunday School Class meets in the Overflow

**11:00 am - Adult Bible Study Class
via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/4808926753?pwd=K3J3bk9CND FsdlI2ZCtuOGxCL2FzZz09>

Hymn Inserts

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.