



First Sunday of Christmas

Worship Service of First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande

9:00 am Sunday, December 27, 2020

Welcome – Pastor Paul

Opening Voluntary – Hymn #265 *The First Noel* (Trad. English),

Hymn #250 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (St. Louis), Richard Hurley

Call to Worship –

LEADER: Praise the God who comes among us!

ALL: We praise the God who is with us in our journeys.

LEADER: Praise the God who walks with us in our rootlessness.

ALL: We praise the God who makes this strange land our home.

LEADER: Praise the God who guides us into new places.

ALL: We praise the God who shows a way in the wilderness.

Prayer of Confession –

ALL: Sovereign God, we have resisted the reality that we are but refugees in this land until your reign comes in its fullness. We want to belong, to feel at home. We take on the trappings of the world and worship at the altar of material goods and wealth. We gather things and people around us to fool ourselves into thinking we are in charge of our lives. We look everywhere but to you for guidance. Forgive us our foolish ways and lead us back to being faithful in bringing this strange land into your glorious reign.

(Moment of silence for personal confession.) **Amen.**

Through the love and mercy of God, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Scripture – Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created,

⁶ **and he established them for ever and ever— he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ **lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,**

⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ **wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,**
¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,
¹² **young men and women, old men and children.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ **And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.**

Praise the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Special Music – *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, Paul Elgin, Carl Heinle, Richard & Wendy Hurley

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Scripture – Luke 2:22-35

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon – *Famous Last Words* Pastor Paul

How to Support Your Church – Pastor Bill

Offering -

Benediction - Pastor Paul

Postlude – *Hymn #277 Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Mendelssohn)*, Richard Hurley

Senior Pastor – Rev Paul Elgin

Audio/Visual – Carl Heinle, Janell Heinle

Associate Pastor – Bill Heinle, Commissioned Pastor

Pianist – Richard Hurley

Narrator – Wendy Hurley

Drum – Carl Heinle

This Week @ FPC

Monday, December 28 - Walking Group 8:00 -10:00 am in the Family Life Center.

Tuesday, December 29-

Wednesday, December 30 -

Thursday, December 31 –

Friday, January 1 – Happy New Year!

Saturday, January 2 –

Sunday, January 3 – Worship @ 9:00 am in the sanctuary, 10:30 am in the Family Life Center.

For more information on any of these events, contact the church office 836-5981 or visit our website:

www.firstpresbyteriancasagrande.com