



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent
Christmas Joy Offering

9:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Joyce Godfrey

Welcome!

*We're glad you are here to worship with us,
whether in-person or virtually on Zoom or YouTube.*

Gathering the People of God

WELCOME

Reverend Shelly Moe

- **ONLINE FELLOWSHIP PAD:** Please let us know you are here by scanning the QR code in the worship bulletin or on your screen if you are at home and completing the form. The QR code is also in the top-right corner of your screen. You can also get to the online fellowship pad by going to www.upctempe.org/fellowship.
- **PAPER FELLOWSHIP PAD:** If you prefer to use the fellowship pads in the pews, please tear out the sheet and place it on the pew when you leave for the ushers to pick up.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** If you are on any social media, you are encouraged to check in at UPC this morning. Let others know that you are here in hopes that they might receive that as an invitation to become a part of our faith community and be encouraged in their faith journeys.
- **MUTE PHONES:** After checking in, please make sure your phone is muted so as not to disturb those around you from the presence of God with us.



The love of God be with you!

≡ **And also with you!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

(480) 256-8216

*Prayers may be texted to the above number,
or call and leave a message.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CENTERING TIME & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"
ARR. RANDALL DEBRUYN

Ted Gibson,
Pianist

We use this time to center our spirits, bring our attention to God within our breath, and remember that we are connected to all things through the Body of Christ.

Candles remind us of the light of God's love that exists within each human being and every created thing. The candles on the communion table represent the light of community. The single candle near the pulpit is the paschal candle, the light of Christ that shines on and in the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The focus of the third Sunday in Advent is joy. With the candles representing hope and peace, we now light this candle, inviting us to seek out people who bring joy into the lives of others. O God, as we open our senses to the world around us, help us to recognize the signs of joy nestled in ordinary places and everyday events. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
⌘ **And also with you.**

*HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

#96

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

⌘ **You witness the sorts of lives we lead, Approaching God. Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about every insignificant thing in our lives.**

Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for Your forgiveness to have its way in them. Fill us with Your hope and your peace so we might lighten the shadows of others.

Help us to join the choirs of children in singing of Your joy. Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Moment for silent reflection and confession.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God is our witness. We have spoken of our lives and been forgiven of every mistake we have made, every hurt we have caused.

‡ **We are held in God's heart, not only on this day, but all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

ANTHEM

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Chancel Choir

MOLLY IJAMES

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our grace,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of Heav'n adore him!
Angel hosts His praises sing!
All dominions bow before Him
And exalt our God and King.
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore
Evermore and evermore.

Listening for God's Word

MOMENT JUST FOR THE CHILDREN

Joyce Godfrey

Children are always welcome in worship. We know they'll make some noise during the service—we understand and welcome their participation in their own way.

Following the children's moment, children through 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Sunday School or parents can take advantage of childcare for infants through 5 years old.

The head usher will be happy to assist you in the narthex!

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING¹

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Luke 3:7-18

OT pg. 877
NT pg. 60

Word of wisdom,
word of grace.
⌘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“How to Live in the Meantime”

Reverend Shelly Moe

Responding to God’s Word

***RESPONSE**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

#88

(v. 5)

5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and open wide our
 heaven - ly home; make safe the way that
 leads on high, and close the path to
 mi - se - ry. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 Em-man - u-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra-el.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

“Christmas Joy Offering”

Catherine May

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Send prayer requests by texting or leaving a message at (480) 256-8216.

PRAYER OF JESUS (Modern)

⌘ **Our Creator in Heaven,
 hallowed be your name.
 Your kin-dom come, your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
Keep us from temptation,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory,
are yours now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING¹

Offerings may be dropped into the offering plate as it is passed, mailed to or dropped off at the church office, or given through our website at www.upctempe.org/donate (scan QR code).

OFFERTORY

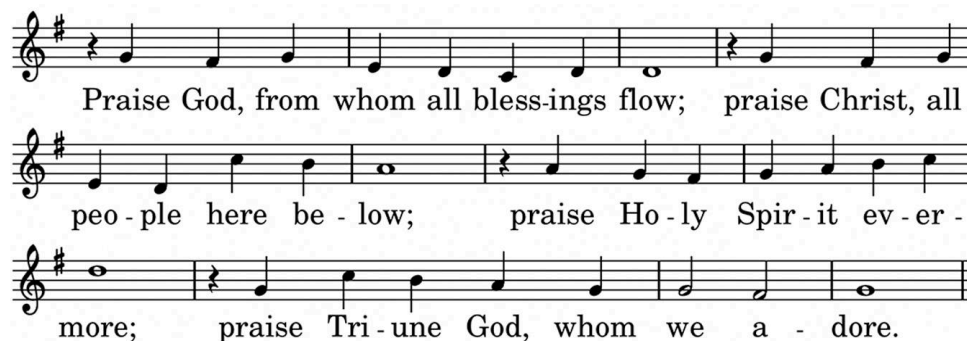
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"
ARR. GORDON YOUNG

Jon Sywassink,
Organist

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#608



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
peo - ple here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er -
more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

Glory to God 608

Text: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988, © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg; Music: Hal H. Hopson, 2008, © 2008 Hal H. Hopson.
Permission to podcast and stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731647.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY

*HYMN

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

#106

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
ARR. DAVID CHERWIEN

Jon Sywassink,
Organist

The postlude is a time of reflection on how God has been present to us during worship, and is present to us in our daily lives.

*Remember you are the light of the world!
Let your light shine!*

Sign up for our Weekly Update email at
www.upctempe.org/email

Today's Worship Leaders

Head Usher	Kathy Wagner
Ushers	Kathy Wagner, Nancy Franz
Worship Techs	Jim Niemann, Bianca Osorio
Trustee on Duty	Steve White
Deacon of the Month	Patty Griffiths
Sanctuary Readiness	Larry Seubert

Permission to podcast, stream, and print music in this service is obtained from OneLicense, lic. #A-731647.

¹ Adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015), 216ff.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

DEACON HONORARY PLANT: *Given this day by Nob Ichishita in gratitude for the Gift Of Jesus.*

MEMORIAL BOOK: *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of George Mayer, a memorial perpetuated in Organ Fund by Morag L. Stewart, June 1986.*

The World: Prayers for peace around the world, especially in places of war, famine, strife.

All elected leaders: The President of the United States, members of the U.S. Congress and Senate, governors, county officials, mayors, and city council members, that they may all work toward peace for our cities, nation, and world.

Continued Prayers: Katie Ranes, John Griffin, Bill Ranes; Dennis Gilliland; Betsy Youngs; Barbara Smith; Bev Phillips; Jim Phillips; Rob, Chet Henry's brother; Beckie Burke; Diane Watkins, Gary Anderson.

Homebound: Joanna Fancher, Helen Alderson

Birthdays this coming week: JoJo Fraser, Robyn Hardesty

If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office to let us know the date so we can celebrate with you!

Elders: Sue Schnebel, Jim Hershauer, Faye Gardner, Brigitta Kuiper
Deacons: Sue Coleman, Sara Hershauer, Diane Hillyard, Bianca Osorio
Trustees: Steve White, Laura Knorr, Reza Folad-Nejad
Presbytery: Parker Valley, Parker, their moderator: Rev. José Olagues

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S BIBLE TIME (Sundays, 10:00 am - 10:45 am, Rm 2): Welcome all children grades K-5! Join us in developing a Christian foundation through Bible stories, discussions, music, and hands-on activities. Children are encouraged to participate in Communion, so Bible Time meets immediately after the Children's Moment on all Sundays except for the first Sunday of each month (and occasional holidays.)

YOUTH GROUP (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Rm 9): All Youth are invited. Fellowship, games, and snacks will be involved! For more information you may contact Ted Gibson tedgibson@upctempe.org.

- **Dec 15** - youth group dinner 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- **Dec 22** - Christmas Party! 11:00 - noon
- **Dec 29** - no youth group - winter break

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Sundays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Sanctuary):

- **Dec. 8 - Dec. 22** - "Names for the Messiah" hosted by Rev. Shelly Moe
- **Dec. 29** - No class

LECTIO DIVINA BIBLE STUDY (Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., Zoom): Join us as we read, reflect upon, and study the scripture readings for each upcoming Sunday in the Revised Common Lectionary. With Advent we begin a new liturgical year – Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary. A list is available for download: List Form (www.upctempe.org/rcl).

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement for our weekly emails and bulletin, submit it to the church office no later than Wednesday of each week. Send it to upc@upctempe.org.

Note: All Zoom meetings may be accessed online via the links provided, or by calling (602) 753-0140 and entering the Meeting ID (the numbers in the weblinks below) and the password, "139." Long distance rates may apply.

CONGREGATIONAL WORKDAY: The Trustees' Fall work Session will run through December 21st, so if you have an hour or two to help out, we have a task for you! The QR code will take you to our sign up sheet, or contact Steve White (602) 617-8308.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS: \$15.00 is the cost of a poinsettia to be in honor of or in memory of loved ones and/or someone special to you this holiday season. The



deacons will have a table set up to accept your donations or you may contact Diane Hillyard or Nancy Martin.

RISE SHINE BREAD: We have delivered 10,294 mini-loaves and 5,720 full-sized loaves of bread to those in need. Thanks to the UPC bakers and please invite your friends to become a baker. The project has about 45 bakers, including 15 who regularly bake. Please contact Andrea White at info@riseshinebread.org or (480) 580-3021. Here is a link to a video you can view! <https://youtu.be/Go5llLjTuw>.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP PAD (www.upctempe.org/fellowship, or scan the QR code):

If you are attending worship either on Zoom or YouTube, remember to complete the online Fellowship Pad and include your prayer requests. Also, if you have new contact info (phone, email, etc.), include that info as well and check the "New contact info" box. ***If your contact info has not changed, you do not need to include your address or phone number.***



UPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Find Zoom links and calendar updates at
www.upctempe.org/events.*

*Subscribe to the Weekly Update for Zoom links:
www.upctempe.org/email*

Sun., Dec 15

PC (USA) Christmas Joy Offering

9:30 am Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
10:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)
11:00 am Adult Sunday School (Z, S)
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)

Mon., Dec 16

3:00 pm Higher Octave Healing (Resource, Rms 2-3)
7:00 pm Board of Deacons (Z)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

Tue., Dec 17

3:30 pm Higher Octave Healing (Resource, Rms 2-3)
6:00 pm Board of Trustees (Z)
6:30 pm CIO Committee (Z)
7:00 pm Stated Session (S, Z)

Wed., Dec 18

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)
12:30 pm Chinle Circle (MR)
1:00 pm Higher Octave Healing (Resource, Rms 2-3, Lounge)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (Z)
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (K, FH)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CH)

Thu., Dec 19

8:00 am TOPS (MR, Rm 7)
11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (Z)

Fri., Dec 20

1:00 pm Higher Octave Healing (Resource, Rms 2-3)
3:00 pm I-HELP –Meal: UPC (FH, K)
8:30 pm A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

Sat., Dec 21

7:00 am I-HELP guests depart
5:00 pm TIF Longest Night Service & Meal (TBA)

Sun., Dec 22

Christmas Joy Offering

9:30 am Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)
10:00 am Children’s Bible Time (Rm 2)
11:00 am Adult Sunday School (Z, S)
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
1:00 pm Ruby Trella Graduation Celebration (FH)

Location/Room References:

(CH)-Choir Room (CR)-Conference Room/Office (COR/Rm7)-Community Room
(FH)-Fellowship Hall (MG) Memorial Garden (HSR)-High School Room
(MSR)-Middle School Room (K)-Fellowship Hall Kitchen
(L)-Lounge (MR)-Meeting Room (PO)-Pastor’s Office
(Rm#)-Room Number Indicated (S)-Sanctuary
(Z)-On Zoom (See Weekly Update or UPC Calendar for links)



Open and Affirming to All, Glorifying God, Growing in Love

139 E. Alameda Dr. • Tempe, AZ 85282 • 480.966.6267

www.upctempe.org • e-mail: upc@upctempe.org

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(Office is remote on Fridays)

Ministers

Temporary Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music & Christian Education
Organist/Accompanist
Clerk of Session
Treasurer/Bookkeeper
Attendance Secretaries
Custodian

Every Member

Rev. Shelly Moe
Lori Saager
Ted Gibson
Jon Sywassink
Brigitta Kuiper
Andrea White
Sharlan Pierce, Jeanette Miller
Carrie Miter