



## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Barkley Butler

*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 Ken 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](http://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

*"Sing We Now of Christmas"*  
ARR. KEVIN MCCHESENEY

Handbells

*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 fourth Sunday in Advent is love. With the candles representing hope, peace, and joy, we now light this candle, inviting us to witness how demonstrating love for others brings light into the world. O God, as we seek authentic and healthy ways to express love in our families, community, and world, guide us ever closer to the light of your love. Amen.

## PASSING THE PEACE

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

## \*HYMN

*"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"*

#107

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

⌘ **O God, we confess that this time of year our lives are a jumble of emotions that tug us in every direction and good intentions that we may or may not fulfill. We are laden with busy work and busy play and sometimes don't see the difference. We get testy and speak thoughtlessly and complain about inconveniences that people in war ravaged places would count as blessings. Have mercy on us for our lack of perspective. Forgive us for overreacting, and help us to calm our hearts and focus our energy and attention on your love.**

*Moment for silent reflection and confession.*

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Friends, God is love, and for that very reason became known to the world through Jesus Christ. Jesus entered the world not to condemn it but to redeem it. Therefore, believe the good news of the Gospel.

**‡ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and are made new and whole. Thanks be to the God of love. Amen.**

## **ANTHEM**

*"The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy"*  
MACK WILBERG

Chancel Choir

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy.  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that His name was Jesus.

He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom.

The Wise Men saw where the baby born. The Wise Men saw where the baby born.  
The Wise Men saw where the baby born, and they say that His name was Jesus.

He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer! He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom. He come from the glory. He come from the glorious kingdom, Glorious kingdom, Glorious, Glorious, come from the Glorious kingdom.

Yes, believer! Yes, believer! Yes, believe, and they said that His name was Jesus.

The angels sang when the baby was born. The angels sang when the baby was born.  
The angels sang when the baby was born, and they said that His name was Jesus.

He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer! He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom. He come from the glorious kingdom, glorious kingdom, glorious, glorious, Yes!

He come from the glorious kingdom. Glorious kingdom. Glorious, Glorious, Kingdom.  
He come from the, He come from the, come from the glorious, glorious, kingdom!

# **Listening for God's Word**

**MOMENT JUST FOR THE CHILDREN**

Barkley Butler

*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 UNDERSTANDING<sup>1</sup>**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:18-25  
Luke 1: 26-35

NT pg. 1  
NT pg. 56

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

**SERMON**

"Twin Soliloquies"

Reverend Ken Moe

# Responding to God's Word

**\*RESPONSE**

*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

#88

(v. 6)

6 O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine ad-vent here; disperse the gloomy  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ows  
put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em-man - u-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra-el.

**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 OFFERING<sup>1</sup>**

*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](http://www.upctempe.org/donate) (scan QR code).*

**OFFERTORY**

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*  
ARR. DIANE BISH

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*

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**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>**

**Sent Out in Jesus' Name**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNITY**

**\*HYMN**

*“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”*

#129

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

### \*POSTLUDE

*"The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy"*  
MACK WILBERG

Chancel Choir

*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](http://www.upctempe.org/email)

### Today's Worship Leaders

Head Usher	Larry Seubert
Ushers	Larry Seubert, Cheri Hardy, Jeanette Miller
Worship Techs	Jim Niemann, Chris Trella
Trustee on Duty	Carol Rickel
Deacon of the Month	Patty Griffiths
Sanctuary Readiness	Larry Seubert

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<sup>1</sup> 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:** *None given this day.*

**MEMORIAL BOOK:** *To the Glory of God and in remembrance of Margaret Williams, a memorial perpetuated in Organ Fund by Olwen W. Harris, 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:** Nob Ichishita, Pam Overton

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

**Elders:** Paul Green, Catherine May, Joan Grey

**Deacons:** Nan Beams, Patty Griffiths, Cathy Richardson, Jey Young

**Trustees:** Helen Griffin, Pete Godfrey, Chris Trella

**Presbytery:** Community, Payson, their pastor: Rev. Dr. Tricia Tedrow

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## 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](mailto:tedgibson@upctempe.org).

- **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
- **Jan 5** - Stump the Pastor
- **Jan 12** - John Orłowski will join Holly Herman for an overview and update on Centro de Esperanza, the refugee shelter in Sonoyta, Mexico. John is co-Director on the board of Shelters for Hope, the nonprofit who started and manages the shelter. John lives in Ajo and is our main contact for needs and supplies. John will give a brief history of the shelter and its current status. Then we will show LOTS of pictures and videos that we have not been able to share on our Refugee Updates. Because of potential dangers to the residents, we can never show faces on material that is sent online. But, this setting will allow us to bring out the eyes and smiles of these courageous folks. Please join us.

**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](http://www.upctempe.org/rcl)).

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## 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](mailto: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.*

**GRADUATION CELEBRATION FOR RUBY TRELLA (Sunday, Dec 22, 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall):** We are excited to celebrate Ruby's graduation from the University of Arizona! Please join us for a reception in honor of this special achievement. Come enjoy light refreshments, great company, and celebrate this milestone with us!

**FEMININE HYGIENE KITS FOR HAITI (Sunday, Dec 29, 10:45 a.m.):** We will have a kit packing time on December 29th after worship. About 200 kits as well as some extra supplies (deodorant, soap, toothbrushes and paste, etc.) will be packed. They will go to Ronide in Florida where she is staying with their daughter. Because the situation in Haiti is so dire, they will keep looking for a time and method to get them into the country.

**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](mailto:info@riseshinebread.org) or (480) 580-3021. Here is a link to a video you can view! <https://youtu.be/Go5llLlJTuw>.

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP PAD ([www.upctempe.org/fellowship](http://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.***



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## UPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

*Find Zoom links and calendar updates at  
[www.upctempe.org/events](http://www.upctempe.org/events).*

*Subscribe to the Weekly Update for Zoom links:  
[www.upctempe.org/email](http://www.upctempe.org/email)*

### **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)

### **Mon., Dec 23**

8:30 pm	AA Meeting (Rm 7)
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**Tue., Dec 24**

*Christmas Eve*

1:00 pm

PW Online Bible Study (Z)

6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

**Wed., Dec 25**

*Christmas Day*

**Thu., Dec 26**

8:00 am

TOPS (MR, Rm 7)

**Fri., Dec 27**

3:00 pm

I-HELP –Meal: UPC (FH, K)

8:30 pm

A.A. Meeting (Rm 7)

**Sat., Dec 28**

7:00 am

I-HELP guests depart

**Sun., Dec 29**

7:00 am

I-HELP Overnight (FH)

9:30 am

Worship Service (S, Z, YouTube)

10:00 am

Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)

10:45 am

Packing Hygiene Kits (MR)

**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)



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

*(Office is remote on Fridays)*

**Ministers**

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

**Every Member**

Reverends Ken & Shelly Moe  
Lori Saager  
Ted Gibson  
Jon Sywassink  
Brigitta Kuiper  
Andrea White  
Sharlan Pierce, Jeanette Miller  
Carrie Miter