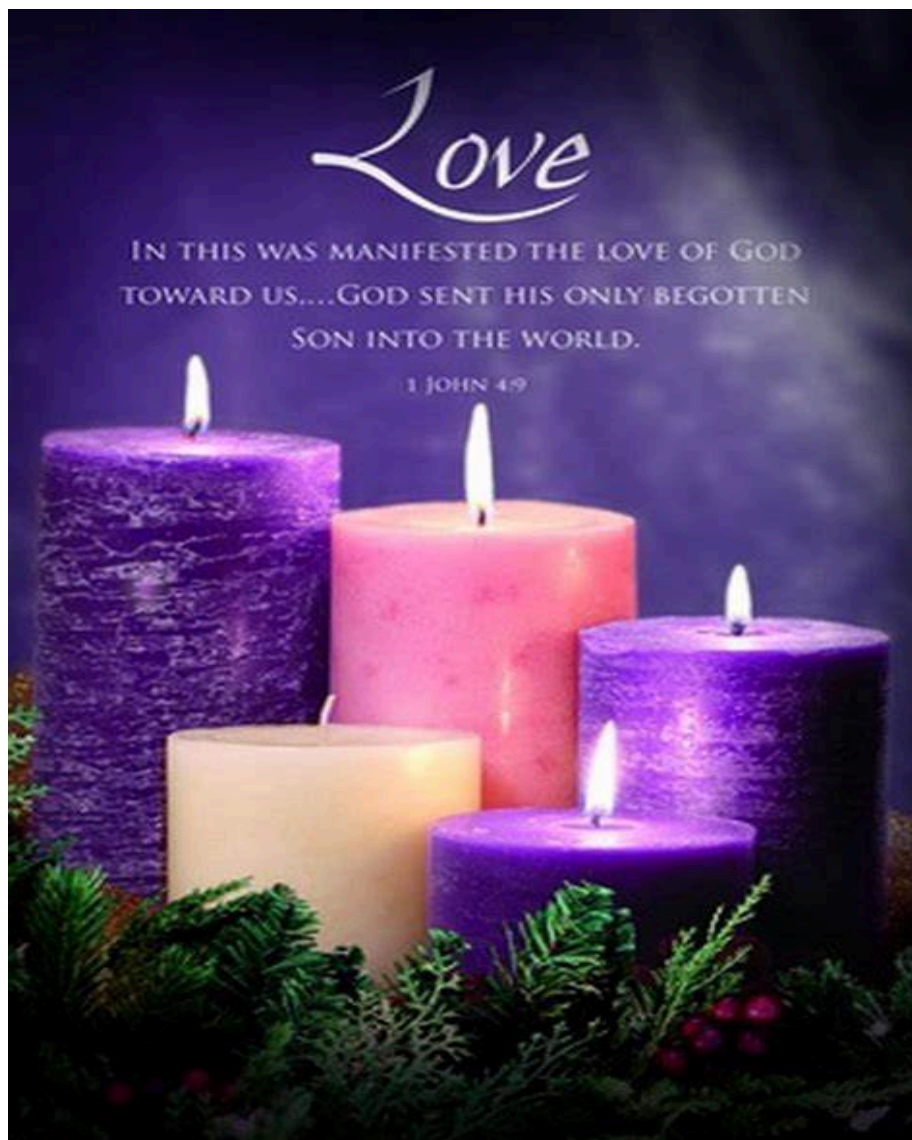


The Holy Way Presbyterian Church



**4040 S. Bilbray Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85746
(520) 965-2249**

***December 22, 2024 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Elizabeth Lyman***

Welcome to Worship

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

Announcements

Announce Birthdays and Anniversaries Ray Weathers
Sing Happy Birthday/Anniversary

If you would like to participate in our tradition of celebrating your birthday or anniversary by giving money towards the church improvements, music department, or children's ministry, please waive your hand, or stand up and your donation will be received in the basket!

***Call to Worship**

Mac & Judy McElroy

One: Please stand in body or in spirit, for the Call to Worship.

Leave your darkness at the door.

All: The season of light is dawning.

One: It is a time of celebrating.

All: The birth of hopes,

One: The flame of compassion,

All: The cradle of wonder,

One: The bud of peace.

All: The darkness is fading.

One: We are finished with waiting.

All: Bring in the season of light.

One: Come, Let us worship God!

Children's Time

Children's Song – Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey, On the dusty road.
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey thro' the winter's night.
Don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near,
There are wise men waiting for a sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey, there's a star ahead.
It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed.

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

One: Today, we light the candle of love. God created the world, and God so loved the world that he didn't want to love it from far off anymore. It was love that made us and love that brought God to live with us, live and in person. Love still lights the way.

All: May the light of Christ bring us hope and peace and joy and love!.

Lighting The Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace and the Candle of Joy and the Candle of Love

One: let us pray:

All: Dear God, are we doing this right? Sometimes we aren't sure. We think we are ready for the baby to be born who will lead us in love. Show us how to love our neighbors as we wait. As we prepare to welcome the baby Jesus to the world, teach us how to also be like him. Let the light of your love live in us for all to see. Amen

***Opening Hymn:** *Angles we Have Heard on High* (Hymn #113)
Mac & Judy McElroy

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Celebrations, Joys and Concerns Rev. Elizabeth Lyman
The People of the Congregation Share Joys and Concerns
(Someone will bring the microphone to you)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Come to bring peace to those at war with themselves, their families, their enemies. May those who govern do so with good will and justice, breaking down barriers, fostering understanding, and drawing our communities and our nations together in peace.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Come to bring comfort to those in pain, those who grieve, those in need of healing and restoration. May those who suffer be assured of your extravagant grace and comforted by the hope that nothing shall separate them from your love.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Come to bring compassion to those who are weak and weary, those who stumble through their days unable to recognize the beauty and meaning of life. May those who are unemployed, those who are struggling financially, those suffering under the crushing weight of debt, find your way out of no way. Grant them options, God. Grant them hope.

Come, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O Root of Jesse, O Emmanuel.

Come to us again this Christmas. Fill the world with your grace and peace.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel ...

Now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught, saying, “**Our Father ...**”

***Passing of the Peace**

Share with one another signs of peace and love. Show the Light of Christ to one another, that we may be reminded of the peace that passes all understanding. The Peace of Christ be with you..

Congregation: And also with you.

(Please share the Peace of Christ with each other)

Our offerings to God

With gratitude for God’s faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory Music:

Astrid Chan

***Doxology: 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 3**

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

***Offering Prayer**

All: Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us, we present these offerings to you. Accept and bless these gifts so that they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Phil Hollis

Let us pray: Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. As we make our final preparations before Christmas, clear our minds of holiday distractions and long list of to-dos. Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder, so we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen

Scripture Psalm 91:11-16

Phil Hollis

For God will command God's angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

The Lord says, "Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;

I will rescue them and honor them.

With long life I will satisfy them
and show them my salvation."

Anthem *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Scripture Luke 2:8-20

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the

angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Message:

Rev Elizabeth Lyman

***Sending Hymn** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* vs. 1, 4, 5 (Hymn #123)

*1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

*4 And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.*

*5 For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.*

Grace for the meal

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Song:** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* (on screen) Congregation

Postlude:

Astrid Chan

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Dear Holy Way Family,

As we reflect on this past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for your faithful generosity. Your giving has been a tangible expression of God's love in action, enabling us to make a meaningful impact both within our church family and throughout our community. We are a vibrant and growing church in a world that needs the word, joy, and hope of our Heavenly Father more than ever. From supporting vital ministries and mission work to maintaining the vibrant life of our congregation, your gifts have truly made a difference.

As we close out this year, we invite you to prayerfully consider making an extra effort in your giving. December is a critical time for our church as we seek to meet our annual goals and prepare for the year ahead. Your generosity in this season will help us finish strong and ensure that we can continue to carry out God's work with excellence and purpose.

Whether through tithes, offerings, or special gifts, every contribution matters. Together, we can extend Christ's love even further, touching lives with hope and grace.

Thank you for all you've done and all you will do. Let us press forward with a spirit of joy and generosity, knowing that our efforts bring glory to God and transform lives.

In Christ, The Elders of The Holy Way

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Today, December 22,** Please join us for a Potluck in the Ranch House after worship!

***Today, December 22,** Join us for **Advent Evening Gatherings at 5:00 p.m.** A time of meditation and contemplation on the texts of Christmas.

***Tuesday, December 24,** there will **NOT** be Bible Study.

***Tuesday, December 24,** we will have a **Christmas Eve Celebration at 5:30 p.m.** It will be a wonderful service of lessons and carols with a variety of special music, including our handbells!

***Tuesday, December 24,** we will be collecting for our **Christmas Joy Offering.** Please earmark your check "Christmas Joy." There are also Christmas Joy offering envelopes in the narthex.

***Wednesday & Thursday, December 25, & 26,** the office will be closed for Christmas.

***Sunday, December 29,** We will be celebrating Don Kimball's life as part of our worship service. Being part of worship here at The Holy Way was integral to who Don was, so we will continue the regular worship service for a little while longer and honor Don. Don's family has requested that gifts in Don's Honor be given to The Holy Way. Earmark your check "Don."

***The Knitting/Hand Group is Back!** Come make something with your hands. All skills welcome! Mondays from 10:00 a.m- Noon in the Conference Room.

***Join us Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** for Bible study. We discuss the upcoming scriptures that will be used for preaching the upcoming Sunday. There are often goodies to share!

***Love to Sing? Join the Choir!** Choir Rehearsals are Thursdays 10:45 am -11:45 am in the Sanctuary.

***Need to contact Pastor Elizabeth?** Her email is:
PastorELymanHolyWay@gmail.com

-Pick up a Newsletter in the Lobby for a complete schedule of the life and events at The Holy Way-