

Rev. Dr. Raymond S. Thomas, Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Smith, Parish Associate
Rev. Ed Parsil, Parish Visitor
Dr. Astrid Chan, Pianist
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Worship Assistant

Dee Ellis

Ushers and Greeters

Elaine & John Anderson

Dearwyn Knittel

Patrick McCarthy

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called The Holy Way.

Isaiah 35:8

December 20, 2015
Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”
Luke 1:39-45

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — WELCOME!

PRELUDE

INTROIT *O Thou That Tellest* Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

LEADER: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

PEOPLE: **A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders.**

LEADER: He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

PEOPLE: **There will be vast authority and endless peace for David’s throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.**

***HYMN** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #113

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of love and hope, we bow before You on this day so near to Christmas, yet so far from the promises proclaimed in the birth of Jesus. Our daily news is filled with violence and conflict across racial, political, religious and economic divides. We do battle with dark thoughts and ominous threats. A heavenly light, transforming the dark and fearful places on earth, sounds inconceivable.

Open our hearts and imaginations to the burgeoning newness proclaimed in the birth of our Savior. Out from the shadows, we look for truth and grace. Out from the darkness, we look for the light of the world to reveal God and sinners reconciled. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE** *Glory Be to the Father* #581

A TIME OF GREETING

ANTHEM *Surely, He Hath Born Our Grievs* Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (After the message, children entering the 5th grade and younger are invited to attend Sunday School in the Ranch House.)

CANDLELIGHTING *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
(vv.1- 4) #85

SCRIPTURE (NT p. 57) Luke 1:39-45

HYMN *What Child Is This* #145

SCRIPTURE (OT p. 865) Micah 5:2-5a

SPECIAL MUSIC *Thus Saith The Lord* Ryan Phillips, Soloist

SERMON “If Not Love”

OUR CARES AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER *Amen* #601

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY *Since By Man Came Death* Chancel Choir

***DOXOLOGY** #606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* #100

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

POSTLUDE

* Please stand if you are able.

Announcements & Opportunities December 20, 2015

Welcome to our Worship Celebration this morning!

We worship every Sunday morning at 9:30 am and offer Sunday School for children. **Help us get acquainted with you by filling out our attendance pad and our guest card!** Please join us for refreshments and fellowship at our Coffee Social Time in the Ranch House **following our service.** You will find sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Ranch House for our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Luke 2:41-52
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Our church strives to be fully accessible to all persons. The **first four rows** on the pulpit side of the sanctuary are designated "**Fragrance-Free.**"

Personal Receivers are available in the AV Room for those needing hearing assistance. **Any chair in our sanctuary can be moved** to make room for persons in **wheelchairs**—our ushers are ready to help. Recorded Audio Tapes are available in the AV Room after each service for your convenience or you can read our **sermons online at www.holywaypc.org.**

Bible Study meets on Tuesday. You are invited to join us for coffee and homemade snacks in the Conference Room at 9:00 a.m. We are studying **1 Corinthians.**

Remember the church in your will

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✚ We are pleased to announce that **Joan Valenzuela**, by letter of transfer, is our newest member!

✚ We invite those who have not yet completed an **estimate of giving** for 2016 to do so; cards are available in the narthex. We also invite year end gifts, postmarked by December 31st, to support our ministry and mission at Holy Way.

✚ The Board of Deacons thanks all those who contributed food, gifts, time and muscle to our **Angel Tree Project.** All the goodies were delivered to the Three Points Food Bank yesterday. A HUGE thank you to Jeannie Hollis, our organizer and catalyst!

✚ Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be on Thursday, at 7:00 pm. Come enjoy the story of the birth of Jesus in word, song and candlelight. Let the church office know if you need transportation to the church.

✚ Next Sunday, our **Young Adult Volunteer, Andy Thomas**, serving in Washington, DC, will give an update on his activities.

✚ Submittals to the January newsletter need to be turned into the church office or emailed by Tuesday, December 29th.

✚ For 5 weeks beginning on **Tuesday, January 5**, there will be a new **Adult Education class called Discipleship and Borders.** This class will give us the opportunity to study the act of crossing borders from a variety of angles. We will explore our own stories of migration, while also focusing on the work of the border ministry *Frontera de Cristo* and *Café Justo*. We will study stories of migration in the Bible and reflect on the common themes we see today. We strongly encourage anyone planning to travel to Agua Prieta on February 9 for the *Café Justo* trip to attend this class, but it is open to anyone interested in learning more! We hope you will join us. **The first day of this class will be a little different, as we will begin with a potluck meal in the Ranch House at Noon on Tuesday, January 5. After our meal, we will remain in the Ranch House for our first class. We will finish by 2pm. After that, we will meet at 1pm on January 12, 19, 26 and February 2.** Classroom will be determined based on class size. If you are planning to attend, please email Elizabeth Smith at esmith@holywaypc.org or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

✚ **Save the date! The 3rd Annual Holy Way Women's Retreat** will be held March 4th - March 6th, 2016 at the Amado Inn in Amado, (just south of Green Valley). Participants from the first two retreats found inspiration and made great new church friends. We set the 2016 Retreat to occur in late winter so that winter visitors would be able to attend.

CALENDAR

Sun.	Dec. 20	9:30 am 6:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School Ala-teen & Al-anon Meetings
Mon.	Dec. 21	9:30 am	Yoga
Tue.	Dec. 22	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Bible Study No Girl Scouts During Christmas Break Al-anon Meeting
Thur.	Dec. 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sun.	Dec. 27	9:30 am 6:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School Ala-teen & Al-Anon

SESSION

Class of 2015	Gerry Pearson	Congregational Life/Memorial
Class of 2015	Wendy Mattias	Administration
Class of 2015	Dougald McIntyre	Administration
Class of 2015	Dudley Williams	Buildings/Grounds/Finance
Class of 2016	Sherril Atleson	Mission/Worship
Class of 2016	Dee Ellis	Christian Education/Deacons
Class of 2016	Sharon Groves	Clerk/Welcome
Class of 2016	Mooneen Ringenberg	Mission/Welcome
Class of 2017	Karl Allen	Christian Education/Worship
Class of 2017	Carol Hearn	Congregational Life/Finance
Class of 2017	Dennis Toresdahl	Buildings/Grounds
Class of 2017	Barbara Armbruster	Congregational Life/Mission

PRAYER CONCERNS

Soldiers & Peacemakers – for their physical, mental, and spiritual health.

All the unspoken prayer concerns.

Your prayers this week will give them the sustaining power we all need.
Please pray for them!

Margaret Agee – Health Concerns
Lynn Allen – Health Concerns
Barbara Armbruster – Health Concerns
Ruth Ann Beck – Health Concerns
Ruthann Boyce – Health Concerns
Dick Canfield (Rich Marsch's uncle) – Health Concerns
Alex Diaz – Health Concerns
Dave Malmberg – Health Concerns
Toni (Wendy Mattias' friend) – Health Concerns
Peg Meyerpeter – Death of Bob on December 14th
Doug Myers – Health Concerns
Lyle Olmstead - Health Concerns
Anita Parsil – Health Concerns
Betty Reichlein – Health Concerns
Charles Sayers – Health Concerns
Rodger Schumacher – Health Concerns
Anne Trueman – Health Concerns

Our Prayer Chain is always available – contact Phyllis Crouthers at 578-8369 or Anita Parsil at 578-2410. If unable to reach Phyllis or Anita, you can email the church office at office@holywaypc.org.