



# First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

*Serving, Giving, Welcoming, Growing in the likeness of Christ*

December 10, 2023

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Stream, Attendance, Prayer Request and Comment online at

[gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org)

Hearing-Assistive Devices, Large-Print Bulletins, Bibles and Hymnals are available from Usher

331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 | 480-892-9166

# Welcome!

Services at 8:00 and 9:30 am • See [gilbertumc.org](http://gilbertumc.org) for streaming information

*\*please stand as you are able*

**Pre-service Music**

*"There's Something About That Name"*

**Ring of the Bell**

**Welcome and Greeting**

Pastor Adriana

**Bringing in the Light of Christ**

**Prelude**

*"All Earth Is Waiting"*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles** (8:00) Chiricuzio Family (9:30) Fonza Family

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel UMH 211 Verse 2*

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist

Leader: Come! Listen! A voice cries out: "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**People: We come, and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

Leader: Pay attention! God is removing barriers and leveling the playing field, making a way for all people to witness the glory of the Lord.

**People: We pay attention, and we wait in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

Leader: We wait, and we work as God's landscapers, filling in valleys and making rough places a plain, bringing justice where conflicts and obstacles once reigned.

**People: We wait, and we work in the just peace of the coming Messiah.**

Leader: As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim and our hands to get messy as our lives declare the coming of our Savior and Comforter.

**All: We come to worship and to grow in the just peace of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah.**

**\*Opening Hymn**    *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*    Vs. 1,2,3,4    **#213**

**\*Opening Prayer**    Liturgist

While we are waiting, come to us, O God. Reveal your presence in our time of worship. Guide our steps in our speaking and our doing. Flow through our lives, our church, and our world with your steadfast love, unending faithfulness, righteous justice, and mysterious peace. In patient anticipation we pray. Amen.

**Anthem**    *"Prepare The Way"*    Choir

**Scripture Reading**    Isaiah 40:1-11 | Mark 1:1-8

**Message**    Pastor Rick

**Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Response**    (8:00)    *"I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"*    Vs. 1,3    #206  
                  (9:30)    *"I Heard The Bells"*    Praise Band

**\*Offering**

**Offertory**    (8:00)    *"Mary, Did You Know"*    Jo Goslar, Midori Hall, Art Wirtz  
                  (9:30)    *"Peace"*    Praise Band

**\*Doxology**    *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*    **#95**

**\*Offering Prayer**    Liturgist

Almighty God, we enter this season from a chaotic world filled with violence, division, and injustice. We hear your prophet Isaiah promising comfort -- then John the Baptist calling us to construction projects. We are reminded we are called to prepare the way, to be the designers of peace, the builders of justice, the producers of kindness. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the Christ who comes in love and compassion. May our giving in this season reflect our hope for the promised kin-dom to reign in our world. We pray this in the name of the Messiah, Jesus our Savior. Amen

**\*Closing Music**    (8:00)    *"God Of Love and God of Power"*    Vs. 1,3,4    **#578**  
                          (9:30)    *"You Never Let Go"*    Praise Band

**\*Blessing  
Postlude**

*"Shalom to You"*

## Thank you for joining our services today!

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Adriana Hernandez  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Marilyn Harter  
TODAY'S LITURGISTS: EVELYN PLUMMER & SAMANTHA MUTACH

### Christmas Cantata

Join us Sunday December 17 for a special service featuring the Chancel choir and guest musicians!

Services at 8:00 and 9:30 am



### YOU'RE INVITED

To the Hands of Joy Sign Language Choir Christmas concert on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary at St Matthew UMC in Mesa.

Bring a friend and enjoy the sounds and signs of some of your favorite carols

All are welcome to come and join us as we celebrate the Reason for the Season!



St Matthew UMC is located at 2540 W Baseline Rd, Mesa, AZ 85202, just east of the 101/Price Freeway and west of Dobson Rd.

### Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 21 • 6:30pm

Not everyone enjoys the holiday season.

Many of us grieve the loss of loved ones, find ourselves alone, or just don't feel as joyful as others seem to be.

If you identify with these feelings of loss and sadness during the holidays, please join us for our Blue Christmas Service.



### Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm - Family Service  
Pick-up Pageant; Carols; Live Nativity

6:00 pm - Candlelight Service\*  
Lessons and Carols

10:00 pm - Candlelight Service\*  
Holy Communion and Handbell Choir

\*Livestream available at 6:00PM SERV  
[gilbertumc.org/worship](http://gilbertumc.org/worship)  
Childcare available in the Nursery 6-7pm

Everyone  
is Welcome!



FUMC of Gilbert  
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### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Dec 31 9:00 Only



### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Dec 24 9:00 Only



## How to Give to First Gilbert

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Visit [gilbertumc.org/giving](http://gilbertumc.org/giving) for more information