

The Holy Way Presbyterian Church



The Banquet of Ahasuerus
Jacopo del Sellaio (Florence 1442 – 1493)

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

April 23, 2023 9:30am
“God Uses Unlikely People For Good”

Mask wearing is optional
Please make the decision that is right for you.

**Welcome to Worship:
Announcements
Opening Prayer**

Rev . Tina Salvaneschi

Call To Worship:

Larry Breuer

Loving God,
You are our Creator and Sustainer.
When You open Your hand,
You satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.
And so we look to You whenever we are in need,
trusting in Your love and Your abundant goodness.

As You once fed the hungry crowds with five loaves and two small fish,
we ask that You would again fill those who are empty this day.
Pour out Your Spirit on all who hunger and thirst.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.
Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.**

We pray for those who are empty emotionally—
who are lonely and long for companionship and love,
who are caught in the grip of depression,
or overwhelmed with grief.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.
Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.**

We pray for those who are spiritually empty—
who are troubled, but don't know where to turn;
who long for purpose and meaning, but don't know where to look;
who need You, but do not yet know You.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.
Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.**

God, we praise You for Your abundant gifts in our lives.
Pour out Your Spirit on us as well.
Fill us with Your compassion and love,
so that we would willingly share some of our abundance
with those who have need.

**People: Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.
Pour out Your Spirit, so that we may be filled.**

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who came so that all of humanity might come to know
the abundant life that comes from You.

People: Amen

Opening Hymn: In Christ There Is No East and West (Hymn 317)
Mac & Miss Judy

Birthday's and Anniversaries Stephen Levine
Sing Happy Birthday/Anniversary Mac & Miss Judy

If you want to participate in our tradition of celebrating your birthday or anniversary by giving money towards church building, renovation, improvement, sound systems, just waive your hand, or stand up and Pastor Tina will receive it in the basket!

Celebrations, Joys and Concerns Rev. Tina Salvaneschi
The People of the Congregation Share Joys and Concerns
(Someone will bring the microphone around)

...The Lord's Prayer

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Anthem: *The Climate Changing (Caring for Creation)*
Ensemble

Tithes and Offering: Prayer Rev. Tina Salvaneschi
(Option: Place you index card with a private prayer for Pastor)
(Option: write on index card a word or two what giving to God means to you place index cards in plate)

Offertory Music: Dr. Astrid Chan

Doxology: (Hymn #606) Congregation

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Scripture Reading:
Esther 1:10-22**

Larry Breuer

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (**A-hah-sur-us**) (aka Xerxes I 485–464 b.c.) **3** *that* in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces *being* before him— **4** when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days *in all*.

5 And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Shushan the citadel, from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king’s palace. **7** And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in abundance, according to the generosity of the king. **8** In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household, that they should do according to each man’s pleasure.

9 Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women *in* the royal palace which *belonged* to King Ahasuerus. (**A-hah-sur-us**)

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, **11** to bring Queen Vashti before the king, *wearing* her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she *was* beautiful to behold. **12** But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king’s command *brought* by *his* eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.

13 Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times **14**, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who had access to the king’s presence, *and* who ranked highest in the kingdom): **15** “What *shall* we do to Queen Vashti, according to law, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus *brought to her* by the eunuchs?”

16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: “Queen Vashti has not only wronged the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who *are* in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. (**A-hah-sur-us**) **17** For the queen’s behavior will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their

eyes, when they report, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.' **18** This very day the *noble* ladies of Persia and Media will say to all the king's officials that they have heard of the behavior of the queen. Thus *there will be* excessive contempt and wrath. **19** If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. **20** When the king's decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honor their husbands, both great and small."

21 And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan. **22** Then he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province in its own script, and to every people in their own language, that each man should be master in his own house, and speak in the language of his own people.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be To God.**

Message: "*A Foolish King*"

Rev. Tina Salvaneschi

Sending Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (*Hymn 307*)

Mac & Miss Judy

Benediction:

Rev. Tina Salvaneschi

Song: *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

Congregation

Postlude:

Dr. Astrid Chan

Following Service this Morning, Please join us for coffee
And refreshments in the Ranch House

Please see Bill Boals with questions

Stay Connected During the Week!

“Sermon Debrief Bible Study”

Tuesday 10:00am! Also available Zoom

Come and meet live in the Ranch House at 10:00am.

This is a great way to get to Fellowship, wrestle with questions about Sunday’s sermon, ponder the meaning of God’s Word, and discover how Scriptures can transform our lives today. This is led by Pastor Tina and is interactive and often there are donuts! Come join the live class if you are able!

In Christ there is no east or west (Hymn 317)

Verse 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

Verse 2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.

Verse 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

Verse 4 In Christ now meet both east and west;
in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

God of grace and God of glory (Hymn 307)

Verse 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Verse 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Verse 3 Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Verse 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our father
Christians all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me