

**First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
3rd Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020 - virtual**

PRELUDE

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Lift Our Voices #710 Beth

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Loman

(Psalm 107)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

#267 Come, Christians Join to Sing

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious Lord Jesus, we thank you for this time of worship; help us to open our hearts to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide, and when needed, a word of challenge and confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our heart, that we would welcome the stranger, the wounded, the foreigner, the suffering, the immigrant, and the outcast. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to blossom and grow in your embracing love. May we in our worship truly celebrate your blessings and gifts, for we thank you in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, **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**

O Rest In The Lord -Leah's solo from recording

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of love and tenderness, you have called us from the chaos of our lives, just as we are. Embrace each of us now as we confess our sins. Forgive us for the opportunities we miss, for squandering our gifts, for wasting our time, and for simply being too busy and preoccupied to keep our focus on the things that really matter. Where we have fallen short of doing your will, forgive us. Where we have neglected those in need, forgive us. Where we have been selfish and hurt other people, forgive us. By your mercy and grace, lead us to live in ways that more faithfully reflect your steadfast loving kindness.

#850 In A Deep Unbounding Darkness

TIME OF PRIVATE CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven. "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation." Let us live new lives of Christian unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE Do Lord recording of handbells

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Leader: What do you mean when you say, "we are forgiven"?

People: Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.¹

Music before Young Disciples-Howard play 8 measures

¹ Question #62, The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version, Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

CALL TO PRAYER Spirit of the Living God from recording of scholars

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE #775 I Want Jesus To Walk with Me

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Read by Janet Loman

Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24:13-35 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the

table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Norm Story

CLOSING HYMN #451 Open My Eyes-show hymn

GO IN GOD’S NAME
VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION Jesus Remember Me from scholars recording

POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck