

**First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
7th Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020 - virtual**

PRELUDE

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introit: In My Life Lord #468

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel Breck

(Psalm 135)

Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; give praise, O servants of the LORD, you that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God. Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for he is gracious. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth; he makes lightnings for the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages. For the LORD will vindicate his people, and have compassion on his servants.

Hymn of Praise: #35 Praise Ye the Lord

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we come in gratitude to praise and honor you and the glory of the majesty of your works. Truly we were surrounded by the wonder and beauty of your creation. Grant us eyes and hearts that notice the bounty of your blessings.

We are sinners who fail, yet welcome in the house of the Lord, where all are invited by your endless mercy and grace. Holy God, you fill our lives with the blessings of abundance. Help us be wise and faithful in using our lives and all they contain. Lord, show us where and how to give. Show us where and how to reflect your own gracious love and forgiveness. Show us where and how we can serve and know the satisfaction of being useful in the work and purpose of your kingdom. Help us come before you in worship that is worthy and pleasing to you... **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

Call to Confession: Psalm 23 - Beth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord, you are the Creator of all things, and we are part of your creation. You call us to live in faithfulness with you and in loving harmony with others. We are too easily distracted by our wants and desires because our perspective is too small and focused on ourselves. By your grace and power, cleanse us of our selfishness, and enlarge our lives. May we will be more faithful, more caring, more just and more merciful. Teach us to treasure your truth, that hereafter, we might not willfully sin against you. Help us Lord, by your power and Spirit to live more faithful lives that reflect your truth and grace. O Lord, grant that in the silence we may hear your voice.

Music after Confession: 1st line Psalm 23 - Beth

TIME OF PRIVATE CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel; that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. In Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.

Hymn of Assurance: #465 What a Friend

DECLARATION OF FAITH

From the Brief Statement of Faith of 1993, how does the Holy Spirit help us live faithful lives?

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord

Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Music Before Disciples: Howard 8 measures

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

Call to Prayer: #466 Come and Fill Our Hearts (Elijah and Diana)

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE Angel’s Among Us - Beth solo

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Read by Janet Loman

John 17:1-6, 11, 13-18 1 Peter 4:8-11, 5:6-11

John 17:1-6, 11, 13-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶”I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

1 Peter 4:8-11, 5:6-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

SERMON

Above All Love One Another

Rev. Norm Story

Closing Hymn: #69 Here I Am Lord

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

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #546 Lord Dismiss Us

POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck