

**First Presbyterian Church
and
Comunidad de Esperanza (Community of Hope)**

Las Cruces, New Mexico

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020 – 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

Entrar para adorar – Salir para servir

Veterans Day Prayer

Dear Lord, Today we thank you for veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them, Lord, for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us. Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made for their many different contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression. We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them, and we pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness.

In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

(By Joanna Fuchs)

PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Send Out Thy Light” - Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

“The Lord's My Shepherd - Mark Sedio (b. 1954)

“Let the Lower Lights Be Burning” - Roger C. Wilson (1912-1988)

**The Prelude functions like a curtain that separates our world from the worship place of peace and sanctuary. We enter prayerfully. We wait expectantly, listening for God's Spirit and truth, which challenges us to return to the world equipped for faithful and useful Christian service.

* *Those who are able, please stand*

Please turn off all cell phones

** *El Preludio funciona como un velo que separa a nuestro mundo del lugar de la adoración de la paz y el santuario. Entramos piadosamente. Esperamos para la verdad y el Espíritu de Dios que nos desafía para volver al mundo equipados para el servicio cristiano fiel y útil.*

* *Aquellos que pueden, por favor ponganse de pie*

Por favor apaguen todos los teléfonos celulares

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bienvenida, Saludos & Anuncios

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Meditación para la preparación para la adoración

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’ And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the Lord!’ (Joshua 24:15, 21 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT *Coral Introito*

“This Little Light of Mine”

TRADITIONAL

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME REÚNIRSE EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Erin Taylor

(from Psalm 40)

Leader: I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: **He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

Leader: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

People: **Blessed are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#362 “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

LLANGLOFFAN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

Oración de adoración y la oración del Señor (al unísono)

Eternal and ever-blessed God, the same yesterday, today, and forever, we rejoice in the order and goodness of your creation. Let the light of your love shine into our hearts and bless our worship, transforming it from its imperfections to an offering acceptable to you. Help us see new glory in the things we take for granted and lead us to praise you with our whole being. May your joy be in our hearts and your love in our fellowship. Praying as you taught your disciples 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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED *Tomen asiento por favor*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Llamada a la confesión*

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (595)
Choral Scholars

ARGENTINE SANTO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) *Oración de confesión (unísono)*

Gracious and generous God, we confess that we live lives that are far less wonderful than you intend and desire for us. We have been blessed with far more than we need to live well, yet too often, fear of scarcity makes us hesitant and stingy in sharing our abundance with those in need. You first loved us, and call us to respond, letting nothing get in the way of a deep and meaningful walk with you. But sometimes we let things that do not really matter distract us. Help us, Lord, to use our lives and resources well, according to your will and purpose, and may we live faithful lives, growing more and more like Jesus day by day.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Momento de confesión en silencio y reflexión

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Seguros del amor y misericordia de Dios

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. And Christ rose for us and takes away all our sin. I therefore declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.

People: **In Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven, thanks be to God, amen.**

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

People: **We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.¹**

¹ from The Scots Confession of 1560

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Aseguramiento*

#749 “Come! Live in the Light”

WE ARE CALLED

Choral Scholars to sing verses

Congregation to join on the refrain

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

Momento de buenas noticias para los discípulos jóvenes

- Children are asked to remain with their families throughout the worship service.
- *Se les pide a los niños que permanezcan con sus familias durante todo el servicio de adoración.*

CALL TO PRAYER *Llamada a La Oración*

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” (724)

ANGEL’S STORY

Choral Scholars

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (350)

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Janet Loman

Deuteronomy 30:15-19

Matthew 25:1-13

Deuteronomy 30:15-19 (New Revised Standard Version)

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call

heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.

Matthew 25:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón* “Commitment, Choice, and Consequence” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#377 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HOUSTON

GO IN GOD’S NAME

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

*BENEDICTION *Bendición*

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“This Little Light of Mine”

TRADITIONAL

*POSTLUDE *Postludio* Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Those who are able, please stand

Please turn off all cell phones

CCLI License No. 540727

Greeting after Worship Service:

Norm Story – E Erin Taylor – W Kathy Story – S

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CLP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Bobby & Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsors	Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells		

Welcome!

We come together as a community at worship to experience the grace of God, who is present in our midst. This is a time to open ourselves to Him and to each other. Expect great things of God and His grace will come to you! Please take a moment to fill out the friendship pads so we can greet you by name. Thank you for coming to First Presbyterian Church; we are glad that you are here. If you are not active in a church home in this community, we invite you to consider joining our fellowship and sharing in this ministry of Christ.

Our sacred space is not this building or this Sanctuary, but it is the fellowship we share, the hospitality we live, and the presence of God we see in each other.

For prayer requests during the week, call the church office to get your request on the Church-wide Prayer Chain, or e-mail Linda Ramirez at linda@fpc.lc

Our Vision: A place where Christian love is modeled

Our Mission: To be a place where Christian love is modeled through:

1. Understanding, celebrating, and sharing God's Word.
2. Following obediently where God is leading us.
3. Leading, nurturing, and serving our community for Christ.

<p>www.fpc.lc_ or e-mail: linda@fpc.lc Rev. Norm Story e-mail: revstory@fpc.lc Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces Our worship services and midweek concerts are available on our website, Facebook and YouTube. You can listen to the service in the east parking lot on 106.3 FM.</p>

Ways To Give

Don't have cash, ran out of checks? That is not a problem with our new multi-way to give options below. Simply Text 84321 a dollar amount, follow the steps and you are good to go for all future giving. One simple step to giving with the convenience of one text moving forward.

QR Scan: Follow the prompts and it is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Give quickly, securely and even set up recurring gifts. Supporting your church has never been easier!

Download the Planning Center App: Find First Presbyterian Church, select and start your tithe in under a minute.

Go to the church website: fpc.lc click on the "heart" icon and set up your giving today.

Or go directly to: fpc.lc/giving



For those present in the sanctuary for worship:

- Everyone is asked to please wear a mask over your mouth and nose at all times. Even if you question the effectiveness, please do so for the comfort and sake of others. Let us focus on loving our neighbors.
- Please practice social distancing, 6 ft. from others not in your family unit.
- Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located at each door.
- Children are to stay with their families throughout the worship service, no child-care is available at this time.
- Please register your presence on the slip of paper in your bulletin and place it in the offering box in the aisle, so that if we need to do contact tracing later we will have a good idea of who came to worship.
- A box is located in each aisle with slots where you can deposit your offering and contact information.

- *Se le pide a todos que usen una máscara sobre su boca y nariz en todo momento. Incluso si cuestiona la efectividad, hágalo para la comodidad y el bien de los demás. Centrémonos en amar a nuestros vecinos.*

- *Practique el distanciamiento social, a 6 pies de otros que no estén en su unidad familia.*
- *Desinfectante de manos y toallitas se encuentran en cada puerta.*
- *En cada pasillo hay una caja con ranuras donde puede depositar su oferta.*
- *Los niños deben permanecer con su familia durante todo el servicio de adoración, no hay cuidado de niños disponible en este momento.*
- *Registre su presencia en el trozo de papel en su boletín y colóquelo en la caja de ofrendas en el pasillo, de modo que si necesitamos hacer un seguimiento de contactos más adelante, tengamos una buena idea de quién vino a adorar.*
- *En cada pasillo hay una caja con ranuras donde puede depositar su oferta y información de contacto.*

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Children's Advent Gifts

Do you know a child, or children, who would like to receive the small gifts traditionally given by our church at Young Disciples Time each Sunday during the holy season of Advent? The children need not be of families affiliated with First Presbyterian. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29th, when the gift will be a children's Advent calendar.

Since things are a little different this year, the calendars, as well as the small Nativity ornaments for the other Sundays before Christmas, will be mailed. Please give us the names and addresses of children up through 5th Grade who would like to receive these mailings by Emailing jkames@q.com, or by contacting Judith Ames at 526-3247 soon. We would also like contact information for an adult, in case any clarification is needed.