

**First Presbyterian Church
and
Comunidad de Esperanza (Community of Hope)
Las Cruces, New Mexico**

2nd Sunday of Advent - Communion

December 6, 2020 – 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

Entrar para adorar – Salir para servir

PRELUDE *Preludio*

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

“Once He Came in Blessing”

John Leavitt (b. 1956)

Toccatina On “Veni Emmanuel”

Matthew McConnell (b. 1980)

**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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-5,7 NRSV)

Regocíjense en el Señor siempre; de nuevo diré: ¡Regocíjate! Que todos conozcan tu dulzura. El Señor está cerca. Y la paz de Dios, que sobrepasa todo entendimiento, guardará sus corazones y sus mentes en Cristo Jesús.

(Filipenses 4: 4-5,7 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT *Coral Introito*

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

PREPARE THE WAY

Elijah Estrada, Solo

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME
REUNIRSE EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Dr. Janet Loman

(John 1)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

People: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(Juan 1)

Líder: En el principio era la Palabra, y la Palabra estaba con Dios, y la Palabra era Dios. Él estaba al principio con Dios.

Gente: Todas las cosas llegaron a existir a través de él, y sin él nada llegó a existir. Lo que nació en él fue la vida, y la vida fue la luz de todas las personas. La luz brilla en las tinieblas y las tinieblas no la vencieron.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison) *Oración de adoración (al unísono)*

Spirit of the living and loving God, hear us today as we draw near. In this time of prayer, we praise you and we thank you for being with us through another week. Draw us from our worldly, earth-bound concerns; that in your presence we may find refreshment from the burdens of our lives, encouragement to seek better ways of living, and guidance for faith-driven decisions in the days ahead. Through our worship, bless us that we may hear your voice today, and that with humility and gratitude respond with open hearts. Silence in us that which is unworthy or displeasing, or that which distracts us from seeking your will. Let our hearts be still, our lives be transparent, and our minds attentive to you, O Lord our Good Shepherd, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Espíritu del Dios vivo y amoroso, escúchanos hoy mientras nos acercamos. En este tiempo de oración, te alabamos y te agradecemos por estar con otra semana. Sácanos de nuestras preocupaciones terrenales y terrenales; para que en tu presencia encontremos un refrigerio de las cargas de nuestra vida, el aliento para buscar mejores formas de vida y la guía para tomar decisiones impulsadas por la fe en los días venideros. A través de nuestra adoración, bendícenos para que podamos escuchar tu voz hoy, y que con humildad y gratitud respondamos con el corazón abierto. Silencia en nosotros aquello que es indigno o desagradable, o aquello que nos distrae de buscar tu voluntad. Que nuestro corazón esté quieto,

nuestra vida transparente y nuestra mente atenta a ti, oh Señor nuestro Buen Pastor, en cuyo nombre oramos. Amén.

PLEASE BE SEATED *Tomen asiento por favor*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Llamada a la confesión*

#89 “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

- Choral Scholars to sing verses
- Congregation to sing refrain

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

We give thanks, O God, because you are unchanging, because your concern for justice and righteousness is so strong that you came in human form to share that concern with us in person. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have been happy to hear the Gospel without truly living it. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another. We pray that you will fill us with your light. May we live our lives in your name as true disciples. May the Light of Christ show us your way; may the Love of Christ overflow from our lives to others; may the peace of Christ define our way of living; may the Life of Christ be our model as we seek to live as your people.

Te damos gracias, oh Dios, porque eres inmutable, porque tu preocupación por la justicia y la rectitud es tan fuerte que viniste en forma humana para compartir esa preocupación con nosotros en persona. Perdónanos, oh Dios, por los momentos en que nos alegramos de escuchar el Evangelio sin vivirlo verdaderamente. Dios amoroso, confesamos nuestros pecados contra ti y entre nosotros. Oramos para que nos llenes de tu luz. Que vivamos nuestras vidas en tu nombre como verdaderos discípulos. Que la Luz de Cristo nos muestre tu camino; que el Amor de Cristo se desborde de nuestras vidas hacia los demás; que la paz de Cristo defina nuestra forma de vivir; que la Vida de Cristo sea nuestro modelo mientras buscamos vivir como tu pueblo.

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

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

People: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation."

Leader: I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

People: Let us live new lives of Christian discipleship, unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!

(desde 2 Corintios 5: 17-18)

Líder: escuche las buenas nuevas: "Si alguien está en Cristo, hay una nueva creación: todo lo antiguo ha pasado; vea, ¡todo se ha vuelto nuevo!"

Gente: Todo esto es de Dios, quien nos reconcilió consigo mismo a través de Cristo y Nos ha dado un ministerio de reconciliación "

Líder: Te declaro, en el nombre de Jesucristo, que nuestros pecados son perdonados.

Gente: ¡Vivamos nuevas vidas de discipulado cristiano, unidad, fe, obediencia, gozo y paz!

INVITATION TO ADVENT Invitación al Adviento

Please sing to the tune of "Breathe On Me Breath Of God"

*Kindle this flame of Peace.
May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God.
The journey we pursue.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Encendido de la vela de Adviento*

Janet Green, Linda Ward, & Laura Conniff

Congregational Response

Please sing to the tune of "Breathe On Me Breath Of God"

*God's realm is our desire.
Where peace and justice reign.
Heaven and earth combined as one.
When Christ shall come again.*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Aseuramiento*

#113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

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*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W ŹLOBIE LEŹ

Choral Scholars

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno* “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN

➤ To follow text #87 in hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 40:1-5, 11 Mark 1:1-8

Isaiah 40:1-5, 11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean

countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Isaías 40:1-5, 11 (Nueva Versión Internacional)

40 ¡Consuelen, consuelen a mi pueblo! —dice su Dios—. ² Hablen con cariño a Jerusalén, y anúncienle que ya ha cumplido su tiempo de servicio, que ya ha pagado por su iniquidad, que ya ha recibido de la mano del SEÑOR el doble por todos sus pecados. ³ Una voz proclama: «Preparen en el desierto un camino para el SEÑOR; enderecen en la estepa un sendero para nuestro Dios. ⁴ Que se levanten todos los valles, y se allanen todos los montes y colinas; que el terreno escabroso se nivele y se alisen las quebradas. ⁵ Entonces se revelará la gloria del SEÑOR, y la verá toda la humanidad. El SEÑOR mismo lo ha dicho». ¹¹ Como un pastor que cuida su rebaño, recoge los corderos en sus brazos; los lleva junto a su pecho, y guía con cuidado a las recién paridas.

Marcos 1:1-8 (Nueva Versión Internacional)

1 Comienzo del evangelio de Jesucristo, el Hijo de Dios. ² Sucedió como está escrito en el profeta Isaías: «Yo estoy por enviar a mi mensajero delante de ti, el cual preparará tu camino». ³ «Voz de uno que grita en el desierto: "Preparen el camino del Señor, háganle sendas derechas"». ⁴ Así se presentó Juan, bautizando en el desierto y predicando el bautismo de arrepentimiento para el perdón de pecados. ⁵ Toda la gente de la región de Judea y de la ciudad de Jerusalén acudía a él. Cuando confesaban sus pecados, él los bautizaba en el río Jordán. ⁶ La ropa de Juan estaba hecha de pelo de camello. Llevaba puesto un cinturón de cuero, y comía langostas y miel silvestre. ⁷ Predicaba de esta manera: «Después de mí viene uno más poderoso que yo; ni siquiera merezco agacharme para desatar la correa de sus sandalias. ⁸ Yo los he bautizado a ustedes con agua, pero él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo».

Lider: Esta es la palabra del Señor.

Gente: **Gracias a Dios.**

SERMON *Sermón*

“Rescue Accessible”

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN *Himno de comunión*

#110 “Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

INVITATION TO THE TABLE *Invitación a la mesa*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

El Padre Nuestro y oración de acción de gracias

...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

...Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE *Comunión de la gente*

Palabras de la institución en Español (1 Corintios 12:23-26 (NVI))

y a los que nos parecen menos honrosos los tratamos con honra especial. Y se les trata con especial modestia a los miembros que nos parecen menos presentables, mientras que los más presentables no requieren trato especial. Así Dios ha dispuesto los miembros de nuestro cuerpo, dando mayor honra a los que menos tenían, a fin de que no haya división en el cuerpo, sino que sus miembros se preocupen por igual unos por otros. Si uno de los miembros sufre, los demás comparten su sufrimiento; y si uno de ellos recibe honor, los demás se alegran con él.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Oración después de la comunión*

GO IN GOD'S NAME

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

*BENEDICTION *Bendición*

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

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

Liturgist – Dr. Janet Loman

Deacon Captain – Dale Cook

Congregational Meeting, December 13, 2020

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after Worship in the Sanctuary on December 13, to approve Dr. Story's call and to receive the Nominating Committee's nominations for church officers for congregational approval.

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		

Greeting before Worship Service:

Wanda Mattiace - E Debra Smith – W Divine Mboh -S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Erin Taylor – E Dr. Janet Loman – W Rev. Norm Story – S

***Those who are able, please stand**

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Our shut-ins; David Bridges; Robert Watkins; Fred Yanker; Dorris Hamilton; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); “El Caldito” soup kitchen; St. Luke’s health care clinic; Tent City; Missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell, Cape Town, South Africa.

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.

Happy Birthday to:

- 12/06 – Mary Ferguson, Susan Trumble
- 12/07 – Kelly Temple
- 12/11 – Carolyn Schmitz
- 12/13 – Rondla Hardin

(If we missed your birthday please call the office at 526-5559 or email Linda at linda@fpc.lc)

Today, Sunday, December 6, 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent
Domingo, 6 de diciembre de 2020

11:45 AM Sermon discussion with Rev. Story in the Library

Sunday, December 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent
Domingo 13 de diciembre de 2020 3er domingo de Adviento

Worship service at 10:30, please wear a mask and practice social distancing

Servicio de adoración a las 10:30, por favor use una máscara y practique el distanciamiento social

CCLI License No. 540727



Christmas Joy Offering - Sunday, December 20th



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24
 at First Presbyterian Church

**You are invited to worship with us as we
 Celebrate Christ’s birth.**

7:00 PM – Traditional Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

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.

Online Giving on the Rise

In these unprecedented times, we have been very fortunate to have the option of online giving. We have seen a major increase with our faithful congregation giving in this manner. Which has been instrumental in keeping our Mission in place and our budget in line. Cash and checks are still welcome, but we are glad to offer a more convenient, safe and easy way to give. Many options are available and listed below. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

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

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

You can also Text 84321 any 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!





Deacons' Christmas Basket Project

Praise God for the spirit of kindness and generosity! We are so fortunate to live in a beautiful land of plenty and be able to share our bounty to help others. This year family holiday celebrations may look very different from years gone by, but what has not changed are the reasons for rejoicing. The deacons are excited to be able to once more offer Christmas food baskets to families in need this year.

It is a time-honored tradition with First Presbyterian Church to supply generous gift baskets to local families so they can be blessed with special holiday meals and food staples. The deacons have compiled a wish list of non-perishable food items and gift cards to fill boxes and arrangements are being made through a local grocery store to purchase the food.

You are invited to participate in this project with your prayers and donations. If you know some families who would benefit from a food basket, please submit their names to our church secretary, Linda Ramirez, via email at Linda@fpc.lc. There is a limit to the number of baskets we will be able to give, so submissions should be given as soon as possible. Christmas trees are placed at each entrance of the sanctuary with stars and monetary values. Please select stars in the amount you feel led to give and place them along with your donation in the offering boxes placed at the end of each aisle. The deadline for contributions is December 6. Designate Deacons Christmas Basket fund if you are giving by check. If you are not able to attend church in person at this time, please consider giving electronically from your home. You can use the following link then select "Deacons Christmas Baskets" from the pull-down menu:

<https://firstpreschurchlc.churchcenter.com/giving>

The deacons would like to thank you in advance for your generous support of this worthwhile project. At a time when so many families are struggling through the many issues and side effects caused by the pandemic, we are indeed blessed to be able to reach out a helping hand. You are making a difference to others and we are very thankful for each of you. Joy to the world!





Contribution Envelopes for 2020

If you use contribution envelopes, please pick them up in the Narthex.

Monthly or weekly envelopes are available.

Or you can call the office and set-up an appointment to pick them up.

- 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.
- A box is located in each aisle with slots where you can deposit your offering.
- Children are expected 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.

- *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.*

Class of 2023 Nominees for Church Officers

Elder Nominees:

Jasey Loman - Jasey has attended First Presbyterian Church ever since she moved to Las Cruces in 1995. She has been a Deacon and an Elder, has taught Sunday school, helped with VBS, worked in numerous capacities for Salt and Light, and has raised her children in this church. Professionally she is the controller for an electrical contractor, a professor at NMSU, and a yoga instructor. In her spare time, she is a slave to 3 children, 4 dogs, and a horse.

Vicki Edwards - Vicki retired as a Senior Research Associate at Corning Inc. in 2013. She then moved to Las Cruces with her husband, Ed Martinez, who passed away in the Fall of 2016 from pancreatic cancer. Vicki then looked for a church and joined First Presbyterian Church in late 2016. She immediately joined the Music & Worship Committee, as an adjunct member, and, in 2017, she was nominated and confirmed an Elder, initially serving as Moderator of the M&W Committee. Vicki enjoys playing handbells and flute and is happy to serve again on the committee. Vicki also enjoys golf, sewing, and painting watercolors.

Samantha Armendariz - Samantha is a single parent to 10-year-old son, Izak. She is a full-time student expected to graduate in May 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She works full-time at La Casa, Inc. and works part-time here at FPC. Some things Samantha enjoys when she is not working or studying are watching Hallmark movies, reading a good book, and serving in ministries like Kairos and Emmaus.

Deacon Nominees:

Ernie Armendariz - Ernie has been an FPC Deacon twice before. This will be his 3rd term being a deacon. Ernie was the youth deacon and was on the CLOS committee. He has been involved with the church for more than 10+ years and volunteered with the youth for 5 years after he graduated from high school. Ernie says he is ready to serve again.

Will Schroeder - (Youth Deacon) Will is a Junior at Las Cruces High School, He enjoys singing in the choir as well as helping with the video and sound system. Will also enjoys swimming on the Las Cruces Aquatic Team (LCAT) and spending time with his family.

Cecelia Mboh - Cecilia is a Presbyterian Christian from Cameroon. She speaks and understands English and is still learning American idioms and customs. Her family brought her to the U.S following the current political unrest in Cameroon. Her son, Divine spoke with her about the Deacons Ministry and she is eager to participate. She has already moved her membership to FPC.

Adwoa S. Amankwaa - Adwoa is a Presbyterian Christian from Ghana. She is the first born from her family and has a three-year-old daughter who lives in Ghana. She is a master's degree student at New Mexico State University. She has moved membership to FPC and wants to join the Deacon's team.

Note: Three vacant officer positions exist. (Due to current uncertainty about the pandemic, people have been concerned about committing to a nomination. The nominating committee will continue to look for deacons in 2021.)