

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**and**  
**Comunidad de Esperanza (Community of Hope)**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 20, 2020 – 10:30 AM**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*  
*Entrar para adorar – Salir para servir*

PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Savior of the Nations, Come”  
“Once in Royal David’s City”  
“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)  
Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)  
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

**\*\*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*

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36 NRSV)

*¡Oh profundidad de las riquezas, la sabiduría y el conocimiento de Dios! ¡Cuán insondables son sus juicios e inescrutables sus caminos! Porque ¿quién conoció la mente del Señor? ¿O quién fue su consejero? ¿O quién le ha dado un regalo para recibir un regalo a cambio? Porque de él, por él y para él son todas las cosas. A él sea la gloria por los siglos. Amén. (Romanos 11: 33-36 NRSV)*

CHORAL INTROIT *Coral Introito*

“Sing Noel!”

B. Dardess

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Jim Parks

(Psalm 46, 130)

**Leader:** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**People:** **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

**Leader:** Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**People:** **I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

(Salmo 46, 130)

**Líder:** *Dios es nuestro refugio y fortaleza, una ayuda muy presente en los problemas.*

**Gente:** *Por tanto, no temeremos, aunque la tierra cambie, aunque los montes tiemblen en el corazón del mar; aunque bramen y se espumen sus aguas, aunque tiemblen los montes con su tumulto.*

**Líder:** *¡Quédense quietos y reconozcan que yo soy Dios! Exaltado soy entre las naciones, exaltado soy en la tierra. El SEÑOR de los ejércitos está con nosotros, el Dios de Jacob es nuestro refugio.*

**Gente:** *En el SEÑOR espero, mi alma espera, y en su palabra espero; Mi alma espera al Señor más que los que velan por la mañana, más que los que velan por la mañana.*

HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#147 “The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

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

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

Lord, what a blessed and yet weary time this is for your people! Be with each of us as we walk through these days of Advent and with those whom you have placed into our care. Give us both rest and strength to help others wait for, long for, and anticipate the peace, hope, joy, and love that only the arrival of Jesus can bring. Place within us a sweet longing and anticipation in our own Advent waiting. Open the hearts of all so that they might hear your promises spoken through the words of your prophets of old and your servants now. Open the eyes of all souls so that they might see the Light that grows ever stronger as the days draw nearer to your Promise-On-Earth. **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**

*Señor, qué tiempo tan bendito y fatigoso es este para tu pueblo. Esté con cada uno de nosotros mientras atravesamos estos días de Adviento y con aquellos a quienes ha puesto a nuestro cuidado. Danos descanso y fuerza para ayudar a otros a esperar, anhelar y anticipar la paz, la esperanza, la alegría y el amor que solo la llegada de Jesús puede traer. Coloque dentro de nosotros un dulce anhelo y anticipación en nuestra propia espera de Adviento. Abre el corazón de todos para que escuchen tus promesas dichas a través de las palabras de tus profetas de antaño y de tus siervos ahora. Abre los ojos de todas las almas para que puedan ver la Luz que se hace cada vez más fuerte a medida que los días se acercan a tu Promesa en la Tierra. 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.*

**PLEASE BE SEATED** *Tomen asiento por favor*

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *Llamada a la confesión*

#551 “Lord, Have Mercy”

LAND OF REST

## 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 Life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people.

*Damos gracias, oh Dios, porque usted es inmutable, porque su preocupación por la justicia y la rectitud es tan fuerte que vino en forma humana para compartir esta inquietud con nosotros en persona. Perdónanos, oh Dios, para los tiempos cuando hemos sido felices de escuchar el evangelio sin realmente vivir él. Amar a Dios, confesar nuestros pecados contra usted y otros y orar que nos llenará con su luz; podemos vivimos nuestras vidas en su nombre como verdaderos discípulos. Puede la luz de Cristo nos muestra su camino; puede el desbordamiento del amor de Cristo de nuestras vidas a los demás; puede la vida de Cristo nuestro modelo como buscamos ser su gente.*

## 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:** Friends, hear the Good News. Jesus died and rose again, overthrowing the powers of sin and death, and he did it for the sake of the world. We are enslaved no longer by the powers of darkness. Friends believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven and we are set free to follow Jesus.

**People:** **Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and released from sin's bondage to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

**Leader:** What does Scripture teach about the nature of our God?

**People:** **There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty; most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH, 1646

**Líder:** *Amigos, escuchen las buenas nuevas. Jesús murió y resucitó, derribando los poderes del pecado y la muerte, y lo hizo por el bien del mundo. Ya no estamos esclavizados por los poderes de las tinieblas. Los amigos creen en las Buenas Nuevas, en Jesucristo todos nuestros pecados son perdonados y somos libres para seguir a Jesús.*

**Gente:** *Creando y confiando en las Buenas Nuevas, en Jesucristo somos perdonados y liberados de la esclavitud del pecado para seguir a Jesús. Gracias a Dios.*

**Líder:** *¿Qué enseñan las Escrituras sobre la naturaleza de nuestro Dios?*

**Gente:** *Hay un solo Dios vivo y verdadero, que es infinito en ser y perfección, un espíritu purísimo, invisible, sin cuerpo, partes ni pasiones, inmutable, inmenso, eterno, incomprendible, todopoderoso; el más sabio, el más santo, el más libre, el más absoluto, obrando todas las cosas según el consejo de su voluntad inmutable y más justa, para su propia gloria; muy amoroso, misericordioso, misericordioso, sufrido, abundante en bondad y verdad, perdona la iniquidad, la transgresión y el pecado; el galardonador de los que lo buscan.*

#### INVITATION TO ADVENT *Invitación al Adviento*

Please sing to the tune of “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

*Kindle this flame of Love.  
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*

Harry and Marsha Topley

#### 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*

#112 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

SUSSEX CAROL

- Choral Scholars to sing verses 1 & 2
- Congregation to join on verses 3 & 4

## GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

*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*

#142 “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

- Choral Scholars to sing verses
- Congregation join on refrain

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### ANTHEM *Himno*

From The Messiah by George Frederick Handel

“He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd”

Leah Rasmussen, Alto

Isaiah 40: 11 “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

“Come Unto Him”

Beth Thomas, Soprano

Matthew 11: 28-29 “Come unto Him all ye that labor. Come unto Him ye that are heavy laden and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you and learn from Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart. And ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

## **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 James 4:13-15

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord:

Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

James 4:13-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.” Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.”

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (Nueva Versión Internacional)

*7 Una vez que el rey David se hubo establecido en su palacio, el SEÑOR le dio descanso de todos los enemigos que lo rodeaban. <sup>2</sup> Entonces el rey le dijo al profeta Natán: —Como puedes ver, yo habito en un palacio de cedro, mientras que el arca de Dios se encuentra bajo el toldo de una tienda de campaña. <sup>3</sup> —Bien —respondió Natán—. Haga Su Majestad lo que su corazón le dicte, pues el SEÑOR está con usted. <sup>4</sup> Pero aquella misma noche la palabra del SEÑOR vino a Natán y le dijo: <sup>5</sup> «Ve y dile a mi siervo David que así dice el SEÑOR: “¿Serás tú acaso quien me construya una casa para que yo la habite? <sup>6</sup> Desde el día en que saqué a los israelitas de Egipto, y hasta el día de hoy, no he habitado en casa alguna, sino que he andado de acá para allá, en una tienda de campaña a manera de santuario. <sup>7</sup> Todo el tiempo que anduve con los israelitas, cuando mandé a sus gobernantes que pastorearan a mi pueblo Israel, ¿acaso le reclamé a alguno de ellos el no haberme construido una casa de cedro?” <sup>8</sup> »Pues bien, dile a mi siervo David que así dice el SEÑOR Todopoderoso: “Yo te saqué del redil para que, en vez de cuidar ovejas, gobernaras a mi pueblo Israel. <sup>9</sup> Yo he estado contigo por dondequiera que has ido, y he aniquilado a todos tus enemigos. Y ahora voy a hacerte tan famoso como los más grandes de la tierra. <sup>10</sup> También voy a designar un lugar para mi pueblo Israel, y allí los plantaré para que puedan vivir sin sobresaltos. Sus malvados enemigos no volverán a humillarlos*

como lo han hecho desde el principio, <sup>11</sup> desde el día en que nombré gobernantes sobre mi pueblo Israel. Y a ti te daré descanso de todos tus enemigos. »”Pero ahora el SEÑOR te hace saber que será él quien te construya una casa. <sup>16</sup> Tu casa y tu reino durarán para siempre delante de mí; tu trono quedará establecido para siempre”».

*Santiago 4:13-15 (Nueva Versión Internacional)*

<sup>13</sup> Ahora escuchen esto, ustedes que dicen: «Hoy o mañana iremos a tal o cual ciudad, pasaremos allí un año, haremos negocios y ganaremos dinero». <sup>14</sup> ¡Y eso que ni siquiera saben qué sucederá mañana! ¿Qué es su vida? Ustedes son como la niebla, que aparece por un momento y luego se desvanece. <sup>15</sup> Más bien, debieran decir: «Si el Señor quiere, viviremos y haremos esto o aquello».

*Lider: Esta es la palabra del Señor.*

*Gente: Gracias a Dios.*

SERMON *Sermón* “Your Plans For Christmas?” Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

\*BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo!” Gloria

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

*Liturgist – Jim Parks Deacon Captain – Dale Cook*

*Sound System – Evan Schroeder Video – Dina Schroeder*

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:*

*Jim Parks – E Rev. Norm Story – W Judith Ames – S*



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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Judith Wood's family on her passing; Sandra Valencia and Anastasia Owens; Frances and Joyce Nolan; 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); La Casa; Gospel Rescue Mission; Missionaries Bob and Donna Waguespack, Mexico City.

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](mailto: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.

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### **Happy Birthday to:**

12/21 – Donalee Bartholomew

12/22 – Sandra Abernathy, Andrea Regmi

12/26 – Dina Schroeder

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

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**Today, Sunday, December 20, 2020     4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Domingo, 20 de diciembre de 2020*

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

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

*Domingo 27 de diciembre de 2020*

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

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 blessed to have the option of online giving. We have seen a major increase with our faithful congregation giving in this manner. This 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](http://fpc.lc) click on the “heart” icon and set up your giving today.

Or go directly to: [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving)

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

You can also Text 84321, enter any dollar amount, follow the steps listed and you are set for future giving. One simple step to giving with the convenience of one text from then on.

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!



### 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 setup an appointment to pick them up.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24  
at First Presbyterian Church

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

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

- 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.*

# Poinsettias 2020-

In memory of Donald & Mary Christensen.

In memory of Karen C. Pond.

In memory of Walter & Hazel Pond.

**Diana Davidson** in memory of John & Virginia Davidson.

**Paul Deason** in memory of Leo & Elna Deason.

**Rondla Hardin** in memory of Stephen Hardin.

**Rondla Hardin** in memory of Charles and Margaret Hardin.

**Rondla Hardin** in memory of Keith and Louise Zeigler.

**Dinah Jentgen** in memory of Russell W. Jentgen.

**Ed and Donna Mathis** in honor of Rev. Norm and Kathy Story.

**Arnold and Cheri McMillan** in memory of Joy Ann McMillan.

**Arnold and Cheri McMillan** in memory of James H. Davis.

**Bob and Linda Seaton** in memory of Lillian Seaton.

**Bob and Linda Seaton** in memory of Bevlah Orr Tarwater.

**Rusty & Debra Smith** in memory of Janet and John Hansaker.

**Rusty & Debra Smith** in honor of Jeanette Smith and Dave Schreuder.

**Rusty & Debra Smith** in memory of Harmon Smith.