

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
2nd Sunday in Advent – Communion Sunday
December 5, 2021 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve
Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir



PRELUDE *Preludio*

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
“God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen”
Jeonai Batista, Piano

Arr. Stan Zielinski
Arr. Stan Zielinski

**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*

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Meditación para la preparación para la adoración

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 4:1-3, 5:1-2 NRSV)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Carol of the Bells”
Handbell Ensemble

Arr. Jason Krug

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME
REÚNIRSE 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.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

People: From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

*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)*

Gracious God, as Christmas time approaches we have so much to get ready! There are decorations to display, events to be planned, presents to be bought and wrapped, and greetings to be sent. Help us never forget to prepare our own hearts for the time of your coming. What will be the point of all our activity if it crowds you out, or of our gifts and greetings unless our own lives are pleasing to you and filled with your Spirit? Lord Jesus, there is more to get ready than we realized, and time may be shorter than we think before we are called to account. May our praise and worship now give new zeal to our discipleship and stewardship, our compassion and forbearance. Amen.

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, and 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.

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!

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

Jonathan and Rebekah West

Encendido de la vela de Adviento

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 Seguridad*

#113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Lynne Carver

Momento de buenas noticias para los discípulos jóvenes

- Since children under 12 are not vaccinated, they are asked to wear masks and to sit on the carpet squares in the front during the Young Disciples’ Talk.
- *Dado que los niños menores de 12 años no están vacunados, se les pide que usen máscaras y que se sienten en los cuadrados de alfombra en el frente durante la charla de los Jóvenes Discípulos.*

CALL TO PRAYER *Llamada a La Oración*

“What Child Is This?”
Handbell Ensemble

Arr. Jason Krug

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno* “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”
➤ To follow text see #87 in the hymnal

GENEVAN

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Lectura de la escritura*

Malachi 3:1-4

Malachi 3:1-4 (New Revised Standard Version)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón* “Purifying Fire and Soap as Good News” 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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE *Comunión de la gente*

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

After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.

*POSTLUDE *Postludio* “Angels We Have Heard on High”
Jeonai Batista, Piano

Arr. Stan Zielinski

Liturgist – Dr. Janet Loman

Deacon Captain – Ernie Armendariz

Sound System – Curtis Benaway

Video – Rusty Smith



Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by Mary Martha Circle.

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 Cecilia Mboh – W Lynne Carver - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Mel Parish – E Kathy Story – W Lynne Carver – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Osborne family on the death of Michelle’s mom; Don and Jean Rhodes; Josie Fietze; Dave Schreuder; George and Sandy Abernathy; Bill and Virginia Haynes; Mary Olberg; Carol Bott; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons’ Ministries; Missionaries Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU headquarters in Orlando, Florida.

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! 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.

Greetings! Our worship services are now available

- 1) in-person, with Covid19 precautions
- 2) live-stream on YouTube (search for: First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM)
- 3) video archive on the church website, our Facebook site or YouTube



Salt & Light – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Children & Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

4:00 – 6:30 PM

5:50 PM – Dinner

Menu: Chicken nuggets, tater tots, carrot sticks with ranch dressing, and cookies.

If you plan to join your child for dinner, please RSVP with the church office.

\$4.00 suggested donation

Please call the church office by Monday 12/06/21 at 526-5559 between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

Karen Candusso, Salt & Light Director



Christmas Baskets

Now that Thanksgiving has passed, the Deacons are working on the list for Christmas Basket recipients. If you know of a person or a family who could benefit from a Christmas Basket, please call Linda at the church office, 575-526-5559, or email at Linda@fpc.lc with the name and phone number of the intended recipient. Also, in each entryway of the church, there is a "Donation Tree" so that you may contribute to make Christmas happier for the families on our Christmas Basket list. Just take a star and place it with your donation in an offering envelope and put it in the purple offering box on the aisle. Let's help make this a Merry Christmas for as many as we can! Thank you for your thoughtfulness! -From your Deacons



12/06 – Mary Ferguson, Susan Trumble

12/07 – Kelly Temple

12/11 – Carolyn Schmitz

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



DRIVERS ARE NEEDED

It's time to start running the church bus and vans on Sunday. We are in need of volunteers to serve as drivers (usually only one time per month).

If you are willing to help in this ministry, please contact one of the deacons or inform the church office at 575-526-5559 or linda@fpc.lc

A Very Special Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated at our In-gathering of food for Casa de Peregrinos. First Presbyterian Church collected and delivered two car loads of food, weighing over 450 pounds. This is a blessing to many families who are in need of a little help this year and we are also blessed in our giving.

Please keep the blue buckets, located at each entryway of the Sanctuary full of non-perishable food items each Sunday especially at this time of year.

God Bless you for your generosity.



In-Betweeners Coming Up

In-Betweeners will be getting together on Friday evening, December 10, at 6:00 PM for a planned potluck. BYO dinner is fine, too. A special Christmas program is being planned for after dinner by Larry Hicks, Vicki Kuyper, and Howard Smolleck.

If someone is not comfortable with having dinner together, coming for the program only is an option. For planning purposes, please let us know that you will be coming for dinner and/or the program by Monday, December 6. Contact the Ames at 575-526-3247, or jkames@q.com.

Online Giving

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 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 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!



Covid19 precautions:

- Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located at each door.
- A purple box is located in each aisle with slots where you can deposit your offering.
- Please register your presence with contact information or prayer requests on the small slip of paper in your bulletin and place it in the purple offering box in the aisle, so that if we need to do contact tracing later, we can contact those who were present.

Want To Get Involved?

You're thinking that you want to participate more in the life of our church but just aren't quite sure how to get started? Well, here's a couple of ideas – folks you can talk to. There are lots of ways to get involved in the life of our church – these are just some of them, but hopefully this gives you some insight on how to get started. There are directories in the church office with these folks' names and emails.

Administration - Marsha Topley

Buildings & Grounds - Rusty Smith

Music & Worship - Vicki Kuyper or Winnie Quinzi

Christian Education - Yolanda Koontz

Mary Martha Circle- Cheri McMillan or Helen Moser

Congregational Life & Outreach Support - Samantha Armendariz

Missions - Brad Class

Deacons - Dale Cook

Salt and Light - Karen Candusso

Music Programs – Beth Thomas

In-Betweeners – Judith or Lyn Ames

CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 526-5559 for information on any events, or by the net: www.fpc.lc or
by e-mail: linda@fpc.lc

Rev. Norm Story e-mail: revstory@fpc.lc

Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

Sunday, December 5, 2021 2nd Sunday in Advent – Communion Sunday

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing Season 2 of “The Chosen” video series.

9:00 – 11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall

9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall

9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship

12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, December 6, 2021

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor (see announcement)

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.

4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)

Thursday, December 9, 2021

6:30 PM ⇨ Deacons meeting this month is on the 9th in Jones Hall Library

Friday, December 10, 2021

New Deadline ⇨ Midnight on Fridays is the deadline for submission to the Good News.
Editor: scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

6:00 PM In-Betweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Sunday, December 12, 2021 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing Season 2 of “The Chosen” video series.

9:00 – 11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall

9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall

9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship

12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

CCLI License No. 540727

****Listening prayer** on the calendar: a reflection on the scripture for the upcoming sermon. We are asking people to join us at 3:00 pm on Tuesdays. If you have questions, please contact Mary Maley at marymaley@netzero.com.