

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

*Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir*



PRELUDE *Preludio*

“An Advent Prayer”

Louise E. Stairs (1974)

“Savior of the Nations, Come” Grimoaldo Macchia (b. 1972)

“People, Look East”

Jason W. Krug (b. 1978)

\*\*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*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24 NRSV)

INTROIT *Introito*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*  
(Isaiah 35)

Helen Moser

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

**People: They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.**

Leader: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

**People: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

*There will be a handbell interlude between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> verse*

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

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

Loving God, as we approach the time of Christ's birth, help us to throw wide the doors of our hearts in preparation. Help us sense the importance of what happened so long ago when Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem, may we remember the words of the angels, and worthily celebrate the promises fulfilled when Jesus was born. Help us make this a season of joy and grace for all those around us. In our worship, help us proclaim your love and your mercy in all our words and movements of praise and adoration. Lord, hear our prayer... **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*

#128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

W Żłobie Leży

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

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and harm we have caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than

seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have often failed to live out your compassion and light to others. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe. May we be open to new possibilities, a fresh vision of greater understanding and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truth.

#### 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: God's light is present in this world, present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. We are loved; we are forgiven.

**People: God's grace is in the world. Our sins, failure, and missteps cannot overcome it. Truly, we are loved and we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

Leader: Now with our sin forgiven, how does God intend for us to live?

**People: Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."<sup>[1]</sup>**

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

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

*Kindle this flame of Joy.  
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*

Montgomery family

#### 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.*

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<sup>[1]</sup> Matthew 22:37-40 (NRSV)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

- Congregation sings verses 1 and 3
- Choral scholars sing verse 2

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Lon Anderson

*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*

#139 “That Boy-Child of Mary”

BLANTRYRE

- Choral Scholars to sing verse 1
- Congregation to join on verses 2 through 6

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Isaiah 12:2-6      Luke 3:7-18

Isaiah 12:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3:7-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I

tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón* “Fruits Worthy of Repentance” Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final* #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**  
VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo!”

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

*Liturgist – Helen Moser*      *Deacon Captain – Gracia Class*

*Sound System – Jonathan West*      *Video – Will Schroeder*

➤ **NO after Worship Fellowship today! No one signed up for it.**

**There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 19, following Worship to elect church officers and next year’s Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor are appropriate only if that person has already been contacted and has agreed to serve.**

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    Diana Howard – W    Dennis Thomas - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Lon Anderson – E    Winnie Quinzi – W    Rev. Norm Story – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Winnie Quinzi; Stephen Taylor's mom, Carlene Oliver; A.B. Conrad; Osborne family on the death of Michelle's mom; Don and Jean Rhodes; Josie Fietze; Dave Schreuder; Bill and Virginia Haynes; Mary Olberg; Carol Bott; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons' Ministries; Casa de Peregrinos; The Gospel Rescue Mission; Missionary Donna Evans, Indonesia and the Philippines.

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](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.

**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 – “What Child is This?”**

Children & Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

4:00 – 6:30 PM

5:50 PM – Dinner

Menu: Baked Pasta, green salad, garlic bread, and cupcakes

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 12/013/21 at 526-5559 between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

**6:30 - 7:00 PM Christmas Concert**

Karen Candusso, Salt & Light Director

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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](mailto:linda@fpc.lc)





**LAST CHANCE TO PICK UP A STAR  
AND SPREAD THE JOY**

At each entrance to the Sanctuary there are Christmas trees with stars, each representing a dollar amount. Please take some time now to prayerfully consider taking a star and putting that amount in an envelope marked "Christmas Food Baskets" and dropping it in the purple box. 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](mailto:Linda@fpc.lc) with the name and phone number of the intended recipient. Thank you for remembering those who may need a little extra help during the holidays.

-From your Deacons

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

12/13 – Rondla Hardin

12/17 – Gerald Carson, Carol Green

12/19 – Marquez Sanchez, Richard Pond

(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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**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.





### 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](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!



#### 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

**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](mailto:marymaley@netzero.com).



**Christmas Joy Offering is on December 19**  
**Share in the Joy of a Promise:**  
**“For God who has promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)**

During Advent, we remember God’s promises to us, as we gather together to wait in hope for the birth of Jesus Christ!

We, in the Presbyterian Church, join this celebration of God’s faithfulness by **supporting those in need of help and hope.**

Thanks to your gifts, the **Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial help** to those who have given their lives to God (our current & retired ministers, mission workers & their families.) It also **provides students hope** for a better life through education at Presbyterian-related schools like the Menaul School in Albuquerque.

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be provided for your use on Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. These gifts of generosity bear witness to our faithful response to love one another, as Christ commanded.





## CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 526-5559 for information on any events, or by the net: [www.fpc.lc](http://www.fpc.lc) or

by e-mail: [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc)

Rev. Norm Story e-mail: [revstory@fpc.lc](mailto:revstory@fpc.lc)

Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

### **Sunday, December 12, 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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

### **Monday, December 13, 2021**

*Last day for Poinsettia orders*

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

### **Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

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

### **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

4:00 PM Salt & Light with the Christmas Pageant (see announcement)

### **Thursday, December 16, 2021**

### **Friday, December 17, 2021**

New Deadline ⇨ Midnight on Fridays is the deadline for submission to the Good News.

Editor: [scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)

### **Saturday, December 18, 2021**

Deacons will be using Watkins Hall

### **Sunday, December 19, 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – Christmas Joy Offering**

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

11:30 AM *Congregational meeting in the Sanctuary*

11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship

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



**Contribution Envelopes for 2022**

If you use contribution envelopes, please pick them up in Jones Hall.  
Monthly or weekly envelopes are available.

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



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – December 24  
at First Presbyterian Church**

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

4:00 PM – Informal family-oriented Candlelight Service.

7:00 PM – Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Childcare available for birth-age 3 at 6:45 pm in Branigan Hall

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