

**First Presbyterian Church  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 19, 2021 - 10:30 A.M**

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve  
Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir*



**PRELUDE** *Preludio*

“The King Shall Come” (Hymn Tune ca. 1560)

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

Albin C. Whitworth (b. 1938)

Robert J. Powell (b.1932)

\*\*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*

God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:28-30 NRSV)

**INTROIT** *Introito*

“Peace, Peace”

Rick and Sylvia Powell

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*  
(Psalm 96)

Gracia Class

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

People: **Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

People: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.**

\*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! 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. Help us sense the importance of what happened so long ago when Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem, to 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*

#124 "Still, Still, Still"

STILL, STILL, STILL

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

We give thanks, O God and 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.

#### 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: 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 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*

Andrea Regmi 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.*

#### HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#112 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

SUSSEX CAROL

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

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

*Momento de buenas noticias para los discípulos jóvenes*

- The children are asked to wear masks and to sit on the carpet squares in the front during the Young Disciples' Talk.

CALL TO PRAYER *Llamada a La Oración*

“Silent Night”

Arr. Mitchell Eithun

Handbell Ensemble

➤ Congregation to join on verse 1 of Silent Night

Silent Night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Angel’s Carol”

John Rutter

Diana Gutierrez and Beth Thomas

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Micah 5:2-5a      Luke 1:38, 45-55

Micah 5:2-5a (New Revised Standard Version)

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 1:38, 45-55 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought

down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón* “Here Am I, Call Me Blessed” Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final* #121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

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

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“Let the Earth Rejoice”

John Rutter

\*POSTLUDE *Postludio*

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

**Congregational Meeting** immediately following worship today.

- 1) to receive the report from the nominating committee and elect church officers
- 2) to approve the pastor’s call for the coming year
- 3) possibly conduct the annual corporate meeting required by the state of NM

*Liturgist – Gracia Class*

*Deacon Captain – Gracia Class*

*Sound System – Max Schroeder*

*Video – Dina Schroeder*



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 the Music & Worship Ministry team.

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:*

*Cecilia Mboh – E    Divine Mboh – W    Adwoa Serwaa Amankwaa - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Gracia Class – 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:** Winnie Quinzi; Stephen Taylor's family on the passing of his mom, Carlene Oliver; A.B. Conrad; Osborne family on the passing of Michelle's mom; 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; "El Caldito" Soup Kitchen; Casa de Peregrinos; 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! 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

You are THE SALT of the earth

Matthew 5:13

**Salt & Light – See you back on January 12, 2022**  
Children & Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 12/19 – Marquez Sanchez, Richard Pond
- 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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**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!





## 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 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

### **Monday, December 20, 2021**

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

### **Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

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

### **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**

### **Thursday, December 23, 2021**

### **Friday, December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

4:00 PM Informal family-oriented Candlelight Service (see announcement)

7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service (see announcement)

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 25, 2021 Christmas Day**

### **Sunday, December 26, 2021**

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



**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**  
**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 are provided for your use today. These gifts of generosity bear witness to our faithful response to love one another, as Christ commanded.



Covid19 precautions:

- Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located at each door.
- A purple box with slots for depositing your offering is located in each aisle.
- 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.



### **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

NOTES:

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## BIOS FOR NOMINEES CLASS OF 2024

### Elders

#### *Lon Anderson (Congregational Life & Outreach Support):*

Lon and his wife Denise have eight grandchildren. When not goofing off with grandchildren, he prefers to be out hunting, fishing, backpacking, or hiking (anything to avoid yardwork). He enjoys working with kids at our church, where he has been a member for over 20 years.

#### *Brent Brewer (Buildings & Grounds):*

Brent Brewer is a stay-at-home father of two and the Communications Administrator for the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca. He grew up in Seattle, WA. During college as a business major with a concentration in information technologies, he met his wife, Catherine "Catie". They moved three times for her graduate studies at Iowa State University, postdoc in Houston, and, in 2013, faculty position at NMSU in Las Cruces. Brent has served as an Elder twice, once in Iowa, and once at FPC on Buildings & Grounds, and as a Deacon at FPC in 2016. Brent has been a member of and the moderator of the Nominating Committee, in 2018 and 2019, respectively. He also volunteers with sound and video for Sunday services, and as a table parent for Salt & Light.

#### *Ada Castle (Christian Education):*

I am a "cradle Christian"; I was born into a Christian family so Jesus has always been part of my life. I was born and raised in Iowa but spent most of my adult life in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 2013 after working 27 years as an administrator at Calvin University, I retired and moved to Elgin, Texas to be near my grandsons. This July we, my daughter, son-in-law, three grandsons and I) moved to Las Cruces to a house capable for all of us to live together. I received a Bachelor of Science degree from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan and a Certificate In Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Seminary in Austin, Texas. I have served both as elder and deacon in my previous churches. Most recently as a ruling elder in The First Presbyterian Church of Elgin, Texas. I was a Sunday School teacher for 19 years. I have served as chair on various committees, including some on the Presbytery level. I was a leader in Bible Study Fellowship for 15 years. I currently lead a weekly Zoom Bible study with some members from my former church and volunteer in the Salt n Light program as often as I can.

#### *Janet Green (Music & Worship):*

Janet Green is a retired administrator and professor at NMSU. She has attended or been a member of FPC since 1976. She lived in Santa Fe twice working for the Governor of New Mexico. Her last appointment was as Secretary of Tourism, 1998-2002. She serves on the Music and Worship Committee primarily taking care of church flowers and seasonal decor.

#### *Mary Maley (Administration):*

Mary Maley is honored so soon after joining First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces to serve as elder. She first joined the Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh in the 1970s and first served as elder in Battle Creek, Michigan in the early 1990s. In addition to serving on or chairing session committees for mission, personnel, and finance, Mary was active in adult Sunday school, handbells, and a weekly prayer group. The latter experience led her to start a Listening Prayer (as opposed to intercessory prayer) group here in Las Cruces.

*Jerry Moser (Buildings & Grounds):*

Jerry was born in the Detroit area and grew up in Western Michigan. It was there that he met and married Helen. They have two adult children, Douglas (Santa Fe) and Abigail (San Antonio, TX). Also, three grandsons and one great granddaughter. His career was in the automotive industry, employed by the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors. As was typical at the time, he was transferred around the country holding various field and home office (Detroit) management positions. After retiring from Chevrolet he continued as a trainer and consultant of GM dealership personnel and GM corporate personnel until *finally* retiring for good a few years ago. After having lived in Detroit (twice), Memphis (twice), Salt Lake City and Santa Fe he and Helen moved to Las Cruces in 2007. In all their locations they were regular and active members of either Presbyterian or United Church of Christ churches. His interests are primarily gardening, domestic and international travel and as an informal observer of human nature.

**Deacons**

*Patricia Adu Mansah:*

Patricia Adu-Mensah is a GOD fearing lady who earned a BA in Theatre Arts and a minor in Music from the University of Ghana. She then attended the Ghana Institute of Journalism where she majored in Journalism and earned a BA in Communications. Patricia then went on to earn a MA in Communication Studies from NMSU in 2019. Patricia now works at Dona Ana Community College in the Academic Readiness Center where she loves having the opportunity to help students! She is currently back in school studying nursing at NMSU.

*Divine Mboh:*

Divine is from Cameroon, joined First Presbyterian Church in April of 2017 and has served as a Deacon since 2018. Divine graduated from NMSU and recently passed his certification for RN. He is the son of Cecilia Mboh who is also a Deacon.

*Linda Ward:*

Educated at Stephens College, Columbia, MO. Linda worked in corporate law firms in Dallas, Texas and San Francisco, California for 25 years as Legal Secretary in Litigation. Also worked at Qualcomm, Inc., in San Diego, California for Top level Executives, including the man who became CEO. Retired in 2004. Linda was on the HOA Board for Canyon Heights Condominiums in Palm Springs, California for 10 years, President for 6 years. President of Ladies Golf Association of Picacho Hills Country Club, Las Cruces, New Mexico (2 years total).

**Nominating Committee for 2022:**

Jim Parks, Carl Connor, Karen Candusso, and Alternate (vacant)