

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
December 26, 2021 - 10:30 A.M
1st Sunday after Christmas
Enter to worship – Leave to serve
Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir



PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (British Hymn Tune of 1850) Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

Meditation on “Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

Fantasia on “The First Nowell” Robert J. Hughes (1916-1999)

**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

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.

(Ephesians 5:15-19 NRSV)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Mary Maley

(Lamentations 3)

Leader: This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

People: “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Leader: The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

People: It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

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

Our Father and our God, as we stand looking toward the beginning of a new year we are in need of your presence and your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us, but you alone know what it holds for us. Only you can give us the strength, courage and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us humbly to put our hands into your hand, to trust you, and to seek your will for our lives during this coming year. In the midst of life’s uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of your unchanging love. In the midst of life’s inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us turn to you for the stability and comfort we will need. As we look back over this past year, we thank you for your goodness to us, far beyond what we deserved. And so, our Father, we thank you for the promise and hope of this New Year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith¹... **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**

¹ from a prayer by Billy Graham that appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, 2008.

PLEASE BE SEATED *Tomen asiento por favor*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Llamada a la confesión*

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Beth Thomas, Solo

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

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, nor trusted Good News to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

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: Just as loving parents still love and spoil their children, even when they don’t live up to their full potential, so you, Almighty God, Parent of us all, still love and spoil us out of your limitless grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **So let us live new lives of Christian faith, obedience, joy, and peace that reflect the grace and forgiveness of God!**

Leader: Now that we’ve celebrated God’s Christmas gift in Jesus Christ, how are things any different?

People: **When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.²**

² from Howard Thurman (November 18, 1899 – April 10, 1981) an influential African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was Dean of Chapel at Howard University and Boston University for more than two decades, and considered one of the great African-American preachers in the early 20th-century.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

Christmastide

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan’s power When we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem in Jewry This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn:
The which his mother Mary Did nothing take in scorn.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a feeding In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straight-way, The blessed babe to find.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Chibuzo Chilaka

Momento de buenas noticias para los discípulos jóvenes

- 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*

#137 “He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

VENTE ADOREMUS

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

Colossians 3:1-3, 12-17

Deuteronomy 8:11-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Colossians 3:1-3, 12-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Sermón*

“God’s Chosen, Holy and Beloved”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final* #136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” GO TELL IT

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

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Congregacional*

#113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

➤ Refrain only

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

Liturgist – Mary Maley Deacon Captain – Gracia Class

Sound System – Rusty Smith Video – Brent Brewer

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

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:

Divine Mboh – E Adwoa Serwaa Amankwaa– W Dennis Thomas- S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Chibuzo Chilaka – W Mary Maley – S

*Those who are able, please stand

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Winnie Quinzi; A.B. Conrad; 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; Missionary Cesar Caruchin, Presbyterian Minister, Columbia, South America.

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/26 – Dina Schroeder

12/28 – Johanna Miller, Diana Davidson

12/30 – Pam Briggs, Janet Green

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

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

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.

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

Monday, December 27, 2021

Church office is closed for Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

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

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Friday, December 31, 2021

Church office closed for the New Year

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

Saturday, January 1, 2022 Happy New Year

Sunday, January 2, 2022 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

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.

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