

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
2nd Sunday after Christmas – Communion
January 2, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

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



PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Raise Now Your Song on High” (From *Christmas Oratorio*) Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

“Nazareth” Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

“Gloria In Excelsis Deo” (Based on Three Traditional Noels) Roger C. Wilson (1912-1988)

**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

“Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home! Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure. A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun. O God, our help in ages past, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!” (Isaac Watts – 1719, hymn #687)

CHORAL INTROIT *Coral Introito*

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ES IST EIN’ ROS’

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Dr. Janet Loman

(from Psalms 90 & 92)

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

People: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

People: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#111 "From Heaven Above"

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison) *Oración de adoración (al unísono)*

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows, we praise you and thank you for bringing us through the year behind us, and for the year ahead. Help us in this new year, to fret less and laugh more, to fear less and trust you and your promises more. May we teach our children to laugh by laughing with them, and teach others about your grace by loving them. Help us this year to recognize signs of your perfect love in every sunrise and sunset, in the beauty of the mountains and the deserts of your creation. Help us to stop and listen for your steadfast love, so that we may know and serve you better. We thank you for another new year filled with opportunities. As we leave the irreparable past in your hands and step into the unknown, we welcome your gift of a new year in the blessed name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED *Tomen asiento por favor*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Llamada a la confesión*

#145 "What Child Is This"

CREENSLEEVES

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

O Holy and merciful God, we want to be more like Jesus, always faithful, loving, and obedient. But as you already know, there are things that we say and do that hurt other people. We remember that Jesus would go to a quiet place to think, listen, and pray, spending time with the Father. Now in our prayer, help us use this quiet time to think, listen, and pray. We want to be more like Jesus, and we are sorry that we stray from the paths of righteousness. Thank you for loving us

enough to freely forgive us. Thank you for helping us to amend our ways, and that you want to help us grow closer to you, day by day and year by year.

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. We are set free to follow Jesus. Friends believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

People: Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: And so what do we believe about the Good News?

People: This is the Good News which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to the women at the tomb, to Peter, then to the twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord, our Savior and our God, through whom all things are possible. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#140 "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

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*

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Choral Scholars

CRANHAM

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

"There's a Star in the East"

FOLLOW

➤ Hymn # 135 to follow text

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD
PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Lectura de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Joshua 4:1-8

Joshua 4:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua: "Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.'" Then Joshua summoned the twelve men from the Israelites, whom he had appointed, one from each tribe. Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites, so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever." The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord told Joshua, carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón*

"Choosing A More Faithful Future"

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN *Himno de Comunción*

#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 *Comunción de la gente*

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

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

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

Liturgist – Dr. Janet Loman Deacon Captain – Dennis Thomas

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 the Congregational Life & Outreach Support 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 Linda Seaton - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Kathy Story – E Steve Loman – W Judith Ames – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: A.B. Conrad; Josie Frieze; 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; La Casa ; Gospel Rescue Mission; 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

BELEATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

1/01 – Stephanie Benaway and
Cecilia Mboh

- 1/02 – Esther Smolleck
- 1/04 – Jacqui Jones
- 1/05 – Helen Moser
- 1/06 – Julie Marineau, Nancy Cowan,
Larry Hicks
- 1/07 – Joyce Hill
- 1/08 – Michael Deason

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

Mary Martha Circle and Bible Study will begin the New Year on January 11, at 9:45 AM in the library. Please join us as we continue to study God’s word with old and new friends.

Jennie Curry Bible Study will meet on Thursday January 6, 2022, at 6:30pm in the Jones Hall Library. We will continue our study on “Living Beyond Yourself,” exploring the fruit of the Spirit. All women are invited to join us. If you have a question, please call or email Kathy Story 575-202-2667 or storyk@comcast.net

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, 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

Monday, January 3, 2022

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

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

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

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

Thursday, January 6, 2022

6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in the Jones Hall Library. (see announcement)

Friday, January 7, 2022

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

Saturday, January 8, 2022

Sunday, January 9, 2022

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.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus

2 Peter 3:18

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.

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

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 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.



You Can Help Our Church!

By now you may know that First Presbyterian Church streams live services and recorded events on YouTube for those who are not able to worship in person. But you may not realize that by signing up for your free subscription to our church YouTube channel, you will be helping us grow a larger viewing audience to spread the good news about Christ to our community and beyond.

In today's world, people of all ages and backgrounds spend a good portion of their time watching shows on YouTube. Because there is vast potential for reaching many others and attracting them to our church, we are asking each member and visitor to consider signing up to our church YouTube channel. It's free and easy. Here are the steps:

1. In your browser type in YouTube.com
2. Tap on the magnifying glass icon to the right and type in First Presbyterian
3. Church Las Cruces, NM
4. When one of our church services pops up, click on the red Subscribe icon on the right side of the screen.
5. Enter your Google (Gmail) email address and password. You can create a free account from this page if you don't already have one.
6. You are now a subscriber to our church's YouTube channel.

And that's it! What a quick, easy way to support our church.

Thank you for helping us spread the Word.