

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

January 30, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir

PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Wonder, Love, and Praise” (Hymn Tune of 1812)

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Albin C. Whitworth (b. 1938)

**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

Bienvenida, Saludos & Anuncios

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Meditación para la preparación para la adoración

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:8-10 NRSV)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

Leah Rasmussen, Solo

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

REÚNIRSE EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Vicki Kuyper

(Psalm 147)

Leader: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

People: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.**

Leader: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

People: **Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#409 “God Is Here!”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

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

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

God, our guide and our protector, we gather today in need of your sanctuary and peace. Please open our minds, our souls, and our hearts, that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction of your Spirit in our lives. Christ Jesus, our shepherd-king, in your presence all our deepest needs are met when your gracious love, peace and joy come into our lives. As into our hearts your mercy overflows, help us, we pray, to follow in faith as you lead us. Through our worship, fellowship, and obedient service, restore and renew our relationship with you and with all others, by your love and power to reconcile all things...**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*

#443 “There Is a Redeemer”

GREEN

- Choral Scholars to sing verses
- Congregation to join on refrain

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

Lord God, for this day and all the blessings it contains, we thank you and praise you. In Jesus Christ you have shown us a more excellent way, a way of love that is greater than all other ways. We live surrounded by your grace and mercy, and yet at times we live as if it were not so. Help us reset our priorities upon the eternal, and live lives that reflect your compassion and forbearance. We hear of your salvation and grace, yet sin is still close and real, and daily we are enticed and drawn away from you and your gracious ways. Have mercy upon us and enter our hearts with healing transformation. Forgive the wrong of what we have done, what we have said, and who we have been.

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: Hear the words of Jesus and be comforted. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in me and in my love." Friends, believe the good news, all our sins are forgiven.

People: **By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: Now cleansed from our sin, how should we live in faithful response?

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.** (Matthew 22:37-40)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#750 "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" GOODNESS IS STRONGER

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Lon Anderson

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*

#205 "Live in Charity"
Choral Scholars

UBI CARITAS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

"In an Age of Twisted Values"

CHURCH UNITED

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD
PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Romans 15:1-7 1 Corinthians 12:1, 27-13:8, 13

Romans 15:1-7 (*The Message*)

Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?” That’s exactly what Jesus did. He didn’t make it easy for himself by avoiding people’s troubles, but waded right in and helped out. “I took on the troubles of the troubled,” is the way Scripture puts it. Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it’s written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. May our dependably steady and warmly personal God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other as well as Jesus gets along with us all. Then we’ll be a choir—not our voices only, but our very lives singing in harmony in a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus! So reach out and welcome one another to God’s glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!

1 Corinthians 12:1, 27-13:8, 13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón*

“Love, A More Excellent Way”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#693 “Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

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

Liturgist – Vicki Kuyper Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

Sound System – Max Schroeder Video – Will Schroeder

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 Patricia Adu Mensah – W Linda Seaton - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Vicki Kuyper – E Lon Anderson – W Rev. Norm Story – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Brian Otto; A.B. and Millie Conrad; Johanna Miller at the Heritage; Dorris Hamilton; 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; Salvation Army; Missionary Donna Evans, Indonesia and the Philippines.

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.
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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!

- 1/30 – Beth Thomas, Alex Merchant
- 2/03 – Anastasia Owens
- 2/04 – Wayne Walker, Larry Courter
- 2/06 – Joyce Nolan

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



Mary Martha Circle welcomes all ladies to our Tuesday, February 8th meeting in the library. Please come at 9:30 AM for a brief social time and at 9:45 AM our continuing Bible study of LUKE led by Gracia Class. Mask up! We look forward to having you join us.

Jennie Curry Bible Study will meet on Thursday February 3rd, 2022 at 6:30pm, in Jones’s Hall library. We will continue our study on “Living Beyond Yourself” exploring the fruit of the Spirit, by Beth Moore. All women are invited to join us. Question, call or email Kathy Story 575 202 2667 or storyk@comcast.net

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, January 30, 2022

9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing "The Attributes of God" by Steven Lawson.
(see announcement)

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, January 31, 2022

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

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

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

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

No Salt & Light

Thursday, February 3, 2022

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

Friday, February 4, 2022

The Good News Newsletter goes out on Saturdays. Please send submissions to:
scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, February 5, 2022

Sunday, February 6, 2022

9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing "The Attributes of God" by Steven Lawson.
(see announcement)

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

**HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP**

After Worship Fellowship: The sign-up board is in Jones Hall Fellowship area.

Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer: This week we are beginning "The Attributes of God." This 16-episode video series looks at the ways that God is described in the Bible and how those attributes affect our relationships with God and with each other.

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.



SUBSCRIBE

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.



Offering
Envelopes

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.

Per Capita Apportionment

Every Presbyterian (USA) congregation is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount to be paid by our congregation for the year 2022 is \$29.11 per member. Members may choose to contribute this amount, if they wish, thus freeing church funds for our ministries.

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