

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

February 20, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

*Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir*

PRELUDE *Preludio*

===== HOWARD

\*\*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*

“The most creative power given to the human spirit is the power to heal the wounds of a past it cannot change. Forgiving happens in three stages: We rediscover the humanity of the person who wronged us, we surrender our right to get even, and we wish that person well.”

(from *The Art of Forgiving* by Lewis B. Smedes)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Amazing Grace”

Arr. Jay Althouse

Leah Rasmussen, Solo

Jeonai Batista, Piano

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

REÚNIRSE EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Mary Maley

(from Psalm 37)

Leader: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

People: **Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.**

Leader: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret – it leads only to evil.

People: **For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERRN

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

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

Gracious Lord, we gather for worship, for this is your holy day. You are our strength and salvation, and in hope we come to offer our praise; for your glory shines upon us, and calls us forth with thanksgiving. In singing and in silence, in Word and in prayer, let us walk in your light, bringing ourselves and our gifts as living sacrifices in your Name. We pray as Jesus taught us: **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*

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

WAYARING STRANGER

Choral Scholars

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

O Christ, the economy of your love is beautiful, expending goodness and extending lines of forgiveness beyond our imagining. The economy of our love is stingy and crooked. We invest love where it can be repaid. We spend mercy where it yields gain. We advance blessing we can bank on. We hold grudges with interest. We do all of this with no recognition of how deeply indebted we are to you. Forgive us our debts, and we forgive our debtors, we pray with our whole hearts.

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! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, our weakness gives way to power; our dishonor disintegrates into glory, and we are raised with Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: **We are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#445 “God, How Can We Forgive”

LEONI

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*

“We Are Forgiven”

WE ARE FORGIVEN

Choral Scholars

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Genesis 45:3-11, 15      Luke 6:27-38

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (New Revised Standard Version)

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Luke 6:27-38 (New Revised Standard Version)

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the

cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón*

“The Freedom of Forgiving”

Dr. Janet Loman

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Congregacional*

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

GREEN TYLER

➤ Verses 1, 4, 5, and refrain only

Refrain: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

\*POSTLUDE *Postludio*

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Deacon Captain –*

*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 Montgomery family.

|                        |                       |                        |                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 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:*

*Adwoa Serwaa Amankwaa – E    Linda Ward – W    Diana Howard - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Dr. Janet Loman – E    Lon Anderson – W    Mary Maley – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Bill Kuyper; Arnold McMillan; A.B. and Millie Conrad; Johanna Miller at the Heritage; Dorris Hamilton; Josie Fietze; Dave Schreuder; Mary Olberg; Carol Bott; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons’ Ministries; Salvation Army; La Casa; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; 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](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.

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**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.

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## 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
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## 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, February 20, 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.
- 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 in Jones Hall

### Monday, February 21, 2022

**Rev. Story will be out of the office till March 1, 2022.**  
Office will be closed today for the Holiday

### Tuesday, February 22, 2022

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor (see announcement)  
Session via electronically

### Wednesday, February 23, 2022

- 12:00 PM **DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin**  
**No Salt & Light** for Spring Break

### Thursday, February 24, 2022

- 6:30 PM Deacons meeting

### Friday, February 25, 2022

The Good News Newsletter goes out on Saturdays. Please send submission to:  
[scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)

- 6:30 PM InBetweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

### Saturday, February 26, 2022

- 2:00 PM Camarata del Sol pre-concert talk in the Sancturay (see announcement)
- 3:00 PM Camarata del Sol concert in the Sanctuary (see announcement)

### Sunday, February 27, 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.
- 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

CCLI License No. 540727



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

**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).

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**Adult Sunday School:** I will be leading a six Sunday seminar (beginning March 6) on the "purpose and unity of the Bible." This goes back to a question I was asked many years ago while a chaplain out in the Adriatic Sea aboard the USS KEARSARGE: "Chaplain, can you teach me the whole Bible?" Of course, that would have taken a few years! but I had time for an overview. An overview is what I will do during these six Sundays. If you are interested, please let me know, so I can prepare the number of handouts needed? We'll meet at 9:00 AM in Branigan Hall.

Larry Hicks, [ptptt45@gmail.com](mailto:ptptt45@gmail.com)

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## **COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY UPDATES**

Please join us as we continue to host small groups in our back yard when the weather permits. It will soon be Spring in New Mexico!

Please call Janet @ 575.202.4379 if you would like to join us!

Friends are always welcome.

ALSO

College and Young Adult Bible Study

will begin via Zoom on

Monday evenings @ 7:00PM beginning February 21, 2022

Please email Janet @ [drjml@me.com](mailto:drjml@me.com) for the link

and mark your calendars!

**WE HAVE MISSED YOU AND ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!**



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

2/20 – Don Rhodes

2/21 – Bill Mattiace

2/22 – Gerald Moser

2/23 – Greg Sherman Jr.

2/25 – Donna Phillips

2/26 – Cole Anderson

2/27 – Suzie Borchert

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 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!



### **IN-BETWEENERS for February**

We plan to get together on Friday evening, February 25th, at 6:00 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall for dinner, followed by a program. Dinner will be catered this time. For more details, contact the Ames, 575-526-3247, or [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com). Please let us know that you plan to come by Monday, February 21st.



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.



### **An Invitation to Camerata Del Sol**

Camerata Del Sol, Chamber Ensemble  
Concert at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 26, 2022  
2:00 PM – Pre concert talk  
3:00 PM – Concert  
Donations at the door