

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

*Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir*



## PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Jane Carrier (1966)

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Don Hustad (1918-2013)

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

David H. Hegarty (b. 1945)

\*\*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 adoracion*

But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:25-28)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Sing Alleluia”

John Leavitt

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Janet Green

(from Matthew 5)

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**People: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#299 "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

HANOVER

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

O Lord, you who sit high above the heavens, you who created all we see and know, you are a great and wondrous God, full of honor and glory. And yet, for all your greatness, you stooped down to come and live among us that we might be drawn into the circle of your love for all time. Wrap your loving and merciful arms around us this day. Open our hearts that we might be truly humbled by your Spirit and full of love for all creation. Through our worship, may our praise be authentic and rooted in your word...**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*

"Lord, Have Mercy upon Us"  
Chancel Choir and Choral Scholars

Arr. David Johnson

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

Forgiving God, as we worship you today, we are aware of our own shortcomings, our failings, our sins. We remember how we have failed to love you fully, or to show your love to others. We recall times when we have spoken out of hurt or anger, instead of out of patience and love. We see how we have treated others unfairly, and we long to make things right. Have mercy on us, O God. Release us from our sin and guilt to live life anew by the power and love of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

## 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 truth. Neither this world nor our lives are so broken that God cannot restore to wholeness. Trust and believe that reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

**People:** **We rejoice in the Good News that through Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.**

**Leader:** What does Scripture teach us 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. Amen.**

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#288 “Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

## GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

*Momento de buenas noticias para los discípulos jóvenes*

- Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front, and masks are optional for those who have been vaccinated.

## CALL TO PRAYER *Llamada a La Oración*

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”  
Chancel Choir and Choral Scholars

TUI AMORIS IGNEM

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## ANTHEM *Himno*

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”  
➤ To follow the text, see #291 in the Hymnal

SPIRIT

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**  
PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Acts 11:1-18      Isaiah 25:1, 6-9

Acts 11:1-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Isaiah 25:1, 6-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**Leader:**      This is the word of the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón* “Gracious Love Has No Limits” Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

HERE I AM

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

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

SPIRIT

\*POSTLUDE *Postludio*

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Janet Green*

*Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh*

*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 Buildings and Grounds 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:*

*Wanda Mattiace – E      Adwoa Serwaa Amankwaa – W      Diana Howard - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Rev. Norm Story – E      Janet Green – W      Judith Ames – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Sandy Abernathy and family on the passing of her husband George; Rev. Jay Bishop; Donalee Bartholomew; A.B. and Millie Conrad; Johanna Miller, Dorris Hamilton, Genevieve Ariege, and Norma Klein at the Heritage; Dave Schreuder; Mary Olberg; Jay M. Allen; Carol Bott; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons’ Ministries; Tent City; 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.

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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



5/15 – Mary Maley

5/19 – Frank Westfall

5/20 – Jean O'Neill, Lyn Ames

5/21 – Caitlin Candusso

5/22 – Randy McFerrin

(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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Covid19 precautions:

- **Seating in West and South sections of the Sanctuary are unrestricted. The East section is reserved to those wishing to wear masks and social-distance.**
- 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.

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, May 15, 2022**

- 9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing “Discovering Deuteronomy” by Robert Godfrey.  
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, May 16, 2022**

*Rusty Smith will be out today.*

**Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor.  
Call Mary Maley at 269-209-4357 if you have questions.  
7:00 PM Session meeting in the Jones Hall Library

**Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

- 12:00 PM **DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin**  
5:00-6:30 PM FUZE youth group with Karen Candusso in Reeves Hall

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**

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

- 6:30 PM Deacons meeting in the Jones Hall Library

**Friday, May 20, 2022**

**Saturday, May 21, 2022**

**Sunday, May 22, 2022**

- 9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing “Discovering Deuteronomy” by Robert Godfrey.  
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

**CCLI License No. 540727**



**Drivers Needed!**

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, First Presbyterian once again needs bus drivers to pick-up and drop-off parishioners for Sunday services. Please contact Wanda Mattiace, Deacon Moderator at [wmm2812@gmail.com](mailto:wmm2812@gmail.com) if you are willing and able to help. Requirement: An ordinary, valid New Mexico driver’s license.

## In-Betweeners for May — COMING UP!

Our fourth Friday will be May 27th, and we'll be getting together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. That's Memorial Day weekend, and there is something special planned!

The Salty Dogs, a three-piece bluegrass band, have agreed to come! You may remember that they were scheduled earlier, but COVID interfered with that plan.

If you are having holiday company, or just know others who would like to come, they're welcome. Just be sure to tell us, so the needed preparations can be made. Dinner will be a planned potluck.

Please let us know that you plan to come and what category of dish (vegetable, main dish, bread, salad, or dessert) you'd like to bring by Monday, May 23rd.

Contact: the Ames at 575-626-3247, or [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com).



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 6-10

9am – noon for ages K-12

Contact info [saltandlight@fpc.lc](mailto:saltandlight@fpc.lc)

Registration forms can be found at each door in the Sanctuary  
or in the Church office



**Donations** to support your church can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

- 1) Cash or check in the offering (purple boxes in the sanctuary)
- 2) Check sent by mail
- 3) Church website: [fpc.lc](http://fpc.lc) and click on the "heart" icon or [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or scan QR code
- 4) Smartphone App: Church Center
- 5) Text 84321

