

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

6th Sunday of Easter

May 22, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir



PRELUDE *Preludio* “The Lord Is My Shepherd” Henry smart (British, 1813-1879)

“Pastorale”

Eric Ewazen

Vicki Kuyper, Flute

Bill Kuyper, Horn

Jeonai Batista, Piano

**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

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ITALIAN HYMN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

REÚNIRSE EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*
(from Psalm 96)

Winnie Quinzi

Leader: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

People: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”

People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#667 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI

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

Gracious Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray, thank you for this time when we can come before you and lift up the concerns of our lives. Lord God, help us to open our hearts to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide, and when needed, a word of challenge and confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our church family, that we would welcome the stranger, the wounded, the foreigner, the suffering, the immigrant, the outcast, and even the one who is really different. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to blossom and grow in your embracing love. May we in our worship truly celebrate your blessings and gifts, for we thank you in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, **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*

#408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

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

Gracious God, you are good and gracious beyond our understanding, and your love in Jesus Christ is beyond all measure. Hear our confessions, O loving One; for sins against you, our Father; against you, our Redeemer; against you, O Holy Spirit. We have sinned against the precepts of Scripture, the dictates of our conscience, against our neighbors and ourselves. According to your steadfast loving kindness, grant that through our repentance we may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving cross, and grow to live more fully within the ways and teachings of Christ. Please help us be open to new possibilities, a new vision of new understanding and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truth.

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: Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and who saves us, hear the words of Jesus from the Gospel of John 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. By God's grace through Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: Who is the Holy Spirit?

People: **In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

#700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" I'M GONNA LIVE

- Congregation to sing verses 1, 2, and 4
- Choir to sing verse 3

CELEBRATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Celebración y bienvenida de nuevos miembros

Susan Waters
Robert and Diana Knapp

(Elders currently serving on Session will greet our new church family members while the congregation sings hymn # 306, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds", vs. 1-3)

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verses 1-2)

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love. The fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our
ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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*

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

TOPLADY

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me”

FIRST SONG

- To follow the text, see #71 in the Hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Exodus 8:1-10

John 5:2-9, 16

Exodus 8:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. If you refuse to let them go, I will plague your whole country with frogs. The river shall swarm with frogs; they shall come up into your palace, into your bedchamber and your bed, and into the houses of your officials and of your people, and into your ovens and your kneading bowls. The frogs shall come up on you and on your people and on all your officials.’” And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, the canals, and the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’” So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. But the magicians did the same by their secret arts, and brought frogs up on the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, and said, “Pray to the Lord to take away the frogs from me and my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the Lord.” Moses said to Pharaoh, “Kindly tell me when I am to pray for you and for your officials and for your people, that the frogs may be removed from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile.” And he said, “Tomorrow.” Moses said, “As you say! So that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God.

John 5:2-9, 16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón*

“Do You Really Trust God’s Good?”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#839 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

ASSURANCE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE

*POSTLUDE *Postludio*

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Winnie Quinzi

Deacon Captain –

Sound System – Jonathan West

Video – Brent Brewer



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 Lyn and Judith Ames.

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

Divine Mboh – W

Rosalyn Stolee - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Amon Taylor – E

Winnie Quinzi – W

Rev. Norm Story – 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; 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.

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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- 5/22 – Randy McFerrin
5/23 – Kip Smits
5/26 – Bill Haynes
5/27 – Erin Taylor, Claire McFerrin
5/28 – Rusty Smith, John Curry, Noel Rooney
5/29 – Evan Schroeder

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 or email Linda at linda@fpc.lc)

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.

With 1/3 of the year elapsed, here's the giving update for our church. Thank you for your donations. Tithes and offerings cover our budgeted expenses including those ever-increasing utilities. Designated gifts pay for specific programs such as Deacons, Choral Scholars, and Salt & Light. Your generosity is appreciated so that our programs continue.

April 2022 Year to Date

	Actuals	Budgeted	Designated
Income	\$117,964.00	\$133,219.85	\$ 9,464.16
Expense	\$129,826.28	\$133,185.83	\$12,905.06
Difference	(\$11,852.28)	\$ 34.01	(\$3,440.90)

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, 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

9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Choir room

10:30 AM Worship Service

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

Monday, May 23, 2022

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor.

Call Mary Maley at 269-209-4357 if you have questions.

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

12:00 PM **DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin**

5:00-7:00 PM FUZE youth group with Karen Candusso in Reeves Hall

Thursday, May 26, 2022

The Good News Newsletter goes out on Saturdays. Please send submissions to:

scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

Friday, May 27, 2022

6:00 PM InBetweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Saturday, May 28, 2022

Sunday, May 29, 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

9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Choir room

10:30 AM Worship Service

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

Monday, May 30th the church office will be closed for Memorial Day.

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 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 6-10

9am – noon for ages K-12

Contact info 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.

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

