

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

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

July 24, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

PRELUDE *Preludio*

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

Imprint Your Image”

Jason D. Payne (b. 1980)

Wilbur Held (1914-2015) “On My Heart

Don Freudenburg (1939-2007) “Nearer, Still Nearer”

\*\*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*

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings. (Jeremiah 17:7-8, 10)

INTROIT *Introito*

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

ASSURANCE

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*

Laura Conniff

(Matthew 13)

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

People: **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.**

Leader: Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

People: **Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

#394 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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

O God, because of your gracious love in Jesus Christ, we joyously and gratefully come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are already here. We need not

call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are already there. We do need our eyes of faith opened, that we may see you; our ears unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be made sensitive, that we may recognize and know you. And we need our hearts to be made tender, that we may receive you and live in you. Gracious God, draw us into your life-changing presence through our worship this day. **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*

#447 “We Are Forgiven”

WE ARE FORGIVEN

- Choir to sing the first time through
- Congregation to join on the second time

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

God of love and tenderness, you call us from the chaos of our lives, just as we are. Embrace each of us now as we confess our sins. Forgive us for the opportunities we miss, for squandering our gifts, for wasting our time, and for simply being too busy and preoccupied to keep our focus on the things that really matter. Where we have fallen short of doing your will, forgive us. Where we have neglected those in need, forgive us. Where we have been selfish and hurt other people, forgive us. By your mercy and grace, lead us to live in ways that more faithfully reflect your steadfast loving kindness.

**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*

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NRSV)

**Leader:** Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and saves us, let us walk anew. God calls us with a holy calling, not because of our good works, but because of God's own purpose in the grace of God given through Christ Jesus. Therefore I declare to you, that in Christ, all our sin has been forgiven.

**People:** **Through Jesus we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Leader:** Now cleansed from sin, how would the Lord our God have us live?

**People:** **The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

**HYMN OF ASSURANCE** *Himno de Seguridad*

#482 “Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

**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*

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Chancel Choir

**PASTORAL PRAYER** *Oración Pastoral*

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand” KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA

- To follow text see hymn #832 in Hymnal

## **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 1

Colossians 1:28-29, 2:5-14, 20a

Psalm 1 (New Revised Standard Version)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Colossians 1:28-29, 2:5-14, 20a (New Revised Standard Version)

It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world?

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón*

“The Best Way to Cut Down a Tree?”

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#826 “Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

## **GO IN GOD’S NAME**

VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”

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

*Liturgist – Laura Conniff Deacon Captain – Gracia Class*

*Sound System – Rusty Smith 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 Linda Ward.

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:*

*Carol Goss – E Diana Howard – W Linda Seaton - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Amon Taylor – E Laura Conniff – W Rev. Norm Story – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Ed and Donna Mathis; Rev. Jay Bishop; Nancy Cowan; Johanna Miller, Dorris Hamilton, Genevieve Ariege, and Norma Klein at the Heritage; Jay M. Allen; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons’ Ministries; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; Salvation Army; Missionary Cesar Caruchin, Presbyterian Minister, Columbia, South America.

## **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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**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



7/24 – Jim Ward

7/26 – Vicki Kuyper, Mary Jo Billiot

7/27 – Debra Smith, Delfina Zertuche, Domonique Pando

7/28 – Marcia Westfall

7/29 – Michelle Osborne

7/30 – Howard Smolleck, Clyde Treat

7/31 – Brent Brewer, Ainslie Boswell

(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.

**Take our church shopping with you!**

We have First Presbyterian tote bags, for your shopping forays in Las Cruces. If you wish, you can

make a donation to offset our cost, but if you can't afford a donation, please take a tote anyway. The main idea is to use it frequently and share the Good News!

How do you get one? Just go to the fellowship area in Jones Hall and pick one up  
it's – self – serve.

Thanks,  
On behalf of the Congregational Life & Outreach Support team.

## 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, July 24, 2022

- 9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing the “Lord’s Prayer” video series by Albert Mohler, which will run through July.
- 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 Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

### Monday, July 25, 2022

### Tuesday, July 26, 2022

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor.  
Call Mary Maley at 269-209-4357 if you have questions.
- 6-8:00PM Watkins Hall in use

### Wednesday, July 27, 2022

- 9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.
- 12:00 PM **DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin**

### Thursday, July 28, 2022

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

### Friday, July 29, 2022

### Saturday, July 30, 2022

### Sunday, July 31, 2022

- 9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing the “Lord’s Prayer” video series by Albert Mohler, which will run through July.
- 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 Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

## 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



**Columbarium:** To reserve a place or to obtain further information regarding the Columbarium come by the church office and pick up a *Columbarium Information Packet*. It describes the policies governing the Columbarium, a contract and a description of purchase options, it also includes answers to frequently asked questions.

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**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.

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HOW  
YOU  
CAN  
HELP

### Hosting Fellowship after Worship

Let's get together! After the Worship service each Sunday, we gather in Jones Hall across from the church office. There are snacks and cold beverages, but most importantly, there are friends new and old to meet and greet. Please come! If you'd like to host a Fellowship Time some Sunday, that would be much appreciated. Hosting fellowship time is easy and the Congregational Life Committee is happy to train you (takes about 5 minutes). The snacks are provided or you can bring your own. See the sign up board in the fellowship area for more information, or contact Rosalyn Stolee or Lon Anderson.

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**Food Baskets:** Please bring a nonperishable food item every Sunday for Casa de Peregrinos, the emergency food bank. Baskets are located at each of the entrances to the Sanctuary.

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**Church office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**