

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Autumnal Beauty”
“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”
“Fight the Good Fight”

William A. Wolf (1875-1965)
Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)
William Barnett (2002)

****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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

International Pot Luck
Deacons’ Hamburger Fry

Lon Anderson
Patricia Adu-Mensah

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. (Hebrews 4:12-13 NRSV)

INTROIT

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ada Castle

(Psalm 42)

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

People: **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.**

Leader: Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

People: **By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#402 “How Lovely, Lord”

MERLE’S TUNE

*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, 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; we thank you in the name of Jesus. **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

CALL TO CONFESSION “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” PICARDY
Leah Rasmussen, Solo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and generous God, we confess that we live lives that are far less wonderful than you intend and desire for us. We have been blessed with far more than we need to live well, yet too often, fear of scarcity makes us hesitant and stingy in sharing our abundance with those in need or the mission of your Church. You first loved us, and call us to respond, letting nothing get in the way of a deep and meaningful walk with you. But sometimes we let things that do not truly matter distract us. Help us, Lord, to use our lives and resources well, according to your will and purpose, and may we live useful lives, growing more and more like Jesus day by day. In your great compassion, forgive our sins, renew us, help us to live more faithfully and serve as led by your Holy Spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: 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. Through God's grace in Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: What does Scripture teach about the nature of our God?

People: There is but one living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty; most wise,

most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

➤ Choir to sing verse 4

CELEBRATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Chibuzo and Faith Chilaka

Lucy Eyong

Sharon Rooney

(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. 1-2)

***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

Chibuzo Chilaka

- 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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Chancel Choir

CRUSADERS’ HYMN

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

GRAND ISLE

➤ To follow text see hymn #730 in the Hymnal

¹ THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH, 1646

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Jeremiah 17:7-11, 14 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-21

Jeremiah 17:7-11, 14 (New Revised Standard Version)

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. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? 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. Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay, so are all who amass wealth unjustly; in mid-life it will leave them, and at their end they will prove to be fools. Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-21 (New Revised Standard Version)

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith. Grace be with you.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Devious, Insatiable and Corrosive”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#846 “Fight the Good Fight”

DUKE STREET

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” AR HYD Y NOS

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Ada Castle Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh
Sound System –Max Schroeder Video – Dina Schroeder



INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

TODAY in Watkins Hall following Worship

Please join us in fellowship with families from around the world.

Please come as you are, with or without food.



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:

Lucy Eyong – E Patricia Adu-Mensah – W Wanda Mattiace - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Chibuzo Chilaka – W Ada Castle – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Clyde and Juanita Treat; Joyce Hill; Rev. Jay Bishop; Johanna Miller, Dorris Hamilton, Genevieve Ariege, and Norma Klein at the Heritage; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons' Ministries; 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

Covid19 precautions:

- **Seating in West and South sections of the Sanctuary are unrestricted. The East section is reserved for 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.

No Salt & Light on Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Fellowship Time Next Sunday

Please join Mary Martha Circle in honoring Rev. Norm and Kathy Story
after Worship on Sunday, October 2nd
In celebration of their 19th Anniversary at our church.



Trunk or Treat will be held on Monday, October 31st. Mark your calendar.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9/27 – Judith Ames

9/29 – Cynthia Watkins, Linda Pearson

9/30 – Marsha Topley

10/01 – Sarah Loman

10/02 – Pat Felhauer

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

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, September 25, 2022

- 9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. The class is viewing and discussing a video Bible study series on the Book of Ruth.
9:00 AM Adult Sunday School, "A Mere Christian: the Life and Writings of C.S. Lewis" in Branigan Hall with Larry Hicks.
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
11:45 AM After-Worship: Join us for the International Pot Luck in Watkins Hall
6:00 PM Handbells rehearsal with Beth Thomas
7:00 PM Handbells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Monday, September 26

Tuesday, September 27, 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 Jones Hall Library.

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

- 9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.
12:00 PM **DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin**
No Salt & Light

Thursday, September 29, 2022

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

Friday, September 30, 2022

- 6:00 PM In-Betweeners in Watkins Hall. (see announcement)

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Sunday, October 2, 2022 World Communion Sunday

- 9:00-10:15 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. The class is viewing and discussing a video Bible study series on the Book of Ruth.
9:00 AM Adult Sunday School, "A Mere Christian: the Life and Writings of C.S. Lewis" in Branigan Hall with Larry Hicks.
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
11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, October 3, 2022

Linda Ramirez will be out of the office all week

CCLI License No. 540727

- **Peacemaking Offering will be collected on Sunday, October 2, 2022**
Nominating Committee needs your help!

The Nominating Committee has been working very hard to find new Deacons and Elders for the coming years. For a variety of reasons, we need to replace several of each. We are seeking those members of our church to help serve in different capacities on the church's committees that keep our church and community going. We are also looking for help for the various committees that the church has set up. If asked to serve, please say yes. If you'd like to help a committee, let one of us know by phone call, email or in person. We need your help! We need you!

Brent Brewer	206-819-7717	Paul Deason	575-644-8427
Karen Candusso	575-618-9474	Jim Parks	575-640-8180
Carl Connor	575-524-4706	Linda Ward	575-541-7470

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 and click on the "heart" icon or fpc.lc/giving or scan QR code
- 4) Smartphone App: Church Center
- 5) Text 84321



On Saturday, October 8, at 10:30 AM, there will be a service in the sanctuary for Bill and Vicki Kuyper to reconsecrate their wedding vows. All are welcome.



On behalf of all the Deacons, we would like to thank this congregation for its generous support of our missions. We are only able to carry out our mission by your donations.

Our only annual revenue making event is the **BURGER FRY**. This year it will be outside after the worship service, on Sunday, October 9th. We will return to the pre-COVID format and will be grilling some delicious hamburgers and hot dogs.

We dedicate this return to tradition to Eddie Armendariz, who loved and supported this event. Please consider making a donation to the Deacon's and *absolutely* plan on joining us for this fun event.