

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Autumn”

William Stickles (1882-1971)

“Take Time to Be Holy”

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

“Our Father in Heaven” (Reformation Chorale of 1539) John S. Dixon (b. 1957)

**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

Advent Devotional

Yolanda Koontz

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephen Taylor

(Psalm 63)

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

People: **So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #15 “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vs 1-4)

LASST US ERREUEN

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

O Lord, you have given us a new beginning, a new morning! What a treat to come and worship, to praise and glorify your name! In wonder, we thank you for the abundance of blessings and gifts in our lives. Were we to make a list of all the ways we are blessed, we would never be able to finish the task. Thank you, and may we be ever more mindful of your benefits, endless blessings, and

steadfast loving kindness. In our worship, may we be as exuberant and eager as our children. Help us set aside the concerns of this world and come into your presence with childlike joy and anticipation. **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 “You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

WAYFARING STRANGER

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

"O God and Father most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And as thou dost blot out our sins and stains, magnify and increase in us day by day the grace of thy Holy Spirit: that as we acknowledge our unrighteousness with all our hearts, we may be moved by that sorrow which shall bring forth true repentance in us, mortifying all our sins, and producing in us the fruits of righteousness and innocence which are pleasing unto thee." O God, we need you to redeem our past, to transform our present, and to redirect our future. Call us out of the places we sit today and show us how to be the people you would have us be.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus 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 the blood of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: Now cleansed from our sin, how should we live in faithful response?

People: Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Arr. Bill Ingram

Handbell Ensemble

- Congregation to join on refrain when prompted

*Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

- 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

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”
Chancel Choir

WOODWORTH

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Depth of Mercy”

David Rasbach

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Deuteronomy 7:6-9, 8:1-2 Luke 18:9-14

Deuteronomy 7:6-9, 8:1-2 (New Revised Standard Version)

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession. It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you—for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.

Luke 18:9-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other

people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Yes, God Loves Us Anyway” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #435 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” IN BABILONE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Go In Peace” Arr. J. A. Shafferman

Mary Maley and Rebekah West, Handbells

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Stephen Taylor Deacon Captain – Gracia Class

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:

Lucy Eyong – E Patricia Adu-Mensah – W Dennis Thomas - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Stephen Taylor – E Judith Ames – W Rev. Norm Story – S

***Those who are able, please stand Please turn off all cell phones**

Please remember in your prayers: Rankin Family on the passing of Bobby Rankin; Jean O’Neill; 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; Gospel Rescue Mission; 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

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
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Covid19 precautions:

- **Seating in West and South sections of the Sanctuary is 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.
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10/25 – Nana Akua Sikapa Adu-Gyamfi

10/26 – William Kersting

10/30 – Bruce Pearson

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

IN-BETWEENERS FOR OCTOBER

On our regular fourth Friday, October 28th, we plan to get together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. Dinner this time will be catered. After dinner, the Burrs will be taking us to count albatrosses on Sand Island in the Midway Atoll.

For planning purposes, please be sure to let us know that you plan to come by Monday, October 24th. Contact: the Ames, 575-526-3247, or jkames@q.com, or just catch us on Sunday.

Advent Devotional

Ready or not, Christmas is coming! What will you give this year? The Christian Ed committee has a priceless idea for you. Share the gift of your story by writing a personal meditation based on one of the Bible verses

provided by Rev. Story. Your contribution will be published in this year's Advent Devotional created by the congregation at First Presbyterian. This booklet will be a faith gift that benefits all who read it. All ages and stories are welcome. Please email Yolanda Koontz at ykooontz@gmail.com for the complete list of verses and make your selection early. Don't delay! Advent will be here before you know it.



Salt & Light – “Pumpkin Harvest”
Wednesday, October 26, 2022

4:00-6:30 PM Grades K-12th

5:50 PM - Salt & Light Dinner,
\$5.00 suggested donation, but any amount is appreciated

Please call the church office with a reservation by Monday at 526-5559
between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

- We are also accepting donations if you would like to sponsor a child. Contact information: Karen Candusso saltandlight@fpc.lc or 575-618-9474

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



College and Young Adult Bible Study
continues on
Monday evenings, at 7:00PM
on Zoom

If you need the link
please call Janet @ 575.202.4379 or
E-mail @ drjml@me.com

WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU! - FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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, October 23, 2022

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School, "A Mere Christian: the Life and Writings of C.S. Lewis" in the Jones Hall Library 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 24, 2022

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

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

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

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.

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

4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)

Thursday, October 27, 2022

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

scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

Friday, October 28, 2022

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

Saturday, October 29, 2022

Sunday, October 30, 2022

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School, "A Mere Christian: the Life and Writings of C.S. Lewis" in the Jones Hall Library 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 31, 2022

6:00-8:00 PM Happy Halloween, Trunk or Treat festival at FPC

CCLI License No. 540727



Trunk or Treat Is Coming! Monday, October 31 (6 to 8 pm)

What is It? Trunk or Treat is an important congregational outreach to our community, sponsored by the Congregational Life and Outreach ministry team. It is a great chance to serve our neighborhood. The essence of Trunk or Treat is serving kids candy from the trunks of our cars in a safe, fun environment. But there is much more, including music, food, crafts, and games.

We need your help! **This event is totally dependent on our congregation to be successful.**

Further information: Contact Lon Anderson, lonandenise@q.com Or, call the church office at 526-5559 and leave your information with Linda.

tear here

tear here

tear here

tear here

Yes! I want to participate in one or more of the following ways:

<i>Give out candy from my car trunk with optional car decoration</i>
<i>Run a booth for a pre-planned game (ducks, bowling, bean bags, etc.)</i>
<i>Devise my own game or craft booth</i>
<i>Kitchen duty and serving food (hot cocoa, nachos, popcorn, etc.)</i>
<i>Donate extra candy (individually wrapped)</i>
<i>Table setup (planning to set up 4 pm on the 31st)</i>
<i>Take-down</i>
<i>Clean up kitchen</i>
<i>Lighting, power strips, extension cords</i>
<i>Bring a pre-carved pumpkin for pumpkin contest</i>
<i>Baking undecorated sugar cookies (deliver to church office by Sunday, Oct 30)</i>
<i>Other (fill in the blank):</i>

My name is _____ My phone is _____

My email is _____

Donations of candy, small toys/trinkets, fruit snacks, granola bars, any non-perishable individually wrapped snacks/goodies can be dropped at the entrances of the Sanctuary and at the office.

