

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Stewardship Commitment Sunday
November 13, 2022 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“A Prayer for Peace”

Jon Raybould

Vicki Kuyper, Flute
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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship
Thanksgiving In-Gathering

Mary Maley
Rosalyn Stolee

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:11-13 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“We Lift Our Voices”

OFFERING

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Montgomery

(Psalm 89)

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

People: **Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #691 “Lord, When I Came into This Life” LAND OF REST

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

God, giver of all good, you continually pour your benefits upon us. Age after age, we wait upon you and find that your faithfulness has no end, that your care is unending. We praise you that the mystery of life is a mystery of infinite goodness. We praise you for the order and constancy of nature, for the beauty and bounty of the earth, for day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, for the varied gifts of loveliness that every season brings. We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our homes, for our friends, and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people. Praying as you taught your disciples 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

CALL TO CONFESSION “God, We Honor You” ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

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. 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 really matter distract us. Help us, Lord, to use our lives and resources well, according to your will and purpose, and may we live faithful lives, growing more and more like Jesus day by day.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News. Jesus died and rose again, overthrowing the powers of sin and death, for the sake of the world. We are enslaved no longer by the powers of darkness. We are set free to follow Jesus. Friends, believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

People: Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

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 #711 “Lord of All Good” TOULON

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Erin Taylor

- 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

“Lord, Prepare Me”
Chancel Choir

SANCTUARY

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Autumn Carol” Arr. Russel Schulz-Widmar
Mary Maley, Amon Taylor and Rebekah West, Handbells

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

James 1:16-18 Luke 20:45-21:6

James 1:16-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

Do not be deceived, my beloved. ¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Luke 20:45-21:6 (New Revised Standard Version)

In the hearing of all the people he said to the disciples, ⁴⁶“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁷They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

²¹ He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; ²he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; ⁴for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.” ⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Overwhelmed with Gratitude”

Dr. Janet Loman

*CLOSING HYMN

#700 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE

**The congregation is invited to place their pledge cards
in the basket on the chancel during this final hymn.**

GO IN GOD’S NAME

PRAYER OF THANKS AND BLESSING FOR GIFTS

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “You Shall Go Out with Joy” THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Eric Montgomery Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

Sound System – Jonathan West Video – Will 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 Mary Martha Circle.

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	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:

Diana Howard – E Lucy Eyong – W Patricia Adu-Mensah - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Eric Montgomery – E Dr. Janet Loman – W Erin Taylor – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Clyde Treat and family on the passing of Juanita; Jean O’Neill; 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; La Casa; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; 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

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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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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- 11/14 – Judi Ferguson,
Mike Bartholomew
- 11/17 – Tom Morehart
- 11/18 – Stephen Taylor
- 11/19 – Ann Miller, Ruth Ward
- 11/20 – Carol Goss

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



**Salt & Light – “Count Your Blessings”
Wednesday, November 16, 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

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, November 13, 2022 Stewardship Sunday

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in 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

Monday, November 14, 2022 Rev. Story will be out of the office all week

6:30 PM Calligraphy Guild meeting in the Library and fellowship area in Jones Hall

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor

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

No Session Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 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, November 17, 2022

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

scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

6:30 PM Deacons meeting in the Jones Hall Library

Friday, November 18, 2022

Saturday, November 19, 2022

Sunday, November 20, 2022 Christ the King Sunday

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in 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

CCLI License No. 540727

****November 24 & 25 the office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

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



An Opportunity to Help

During a Sunday near Thanksgiving each year, we are asked to bring non-perishable food items to church that will be distributed to those in the Las Cruces community who are in need. This year the **Thanksgiving In-Gathering** will be **Sunday, November 20th**. During the Worship service there will be a special time when you will be invited to put your food-offerings into the baskets in the front. Our congregation has contributed an amazing amount of rice, dry pasta, boxed and canned foods in the past, remembering, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me," (Matthew 25:40)