

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

attributed – To Sir Francis Drake -1577

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1st Sunday of Advent¹

November 27, 2022 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”
“Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing”

Arr. Mark Hayes
Arr. Stan Zielinski

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

Please sign the friendship pads at this time.

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, 23-24 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Arr. Peggy Thompson

Leah Mathe, Solo

Chancel Choir

Handbell Ensemble

¹ “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lucy Eyong

(John 1)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

People: **All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

People: **From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, what a blessed and yet tiring time this is for your people. Be with each of us as we walk through these days of Advent and with those whom you have placed into our care. Give us both rest and strength to help others wait for, long for, and anticipate the peace, hope, joy, and love that only the arrival of Jesus can bring. Place within us a sweet longing and anticipation in our own Advent waiting. Open the hearts of all so that they might hear your promises spoken through the words of your prophets of old and your servants now. Open the eyes of all souls so that they might see the Light that grows ever stronger as the days draw nearer to your Promise-On-Earth. **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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Joshua Pritchard, Solo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord God, we are yours, yet we do not always live fully as yours. We compartmentalize our lives, giving some parts to you, but reserving others for ourselves. In our relationships, our speech, our choices of entertainment, we often use our own judgment and act on our own preferences, without consulting you through prayer and Scripture. We confess that you are our God, yet not always Lord of our thoughts, words, and actions. Help us seek and attend to the guidance of your Holy Spirit in all things; be Lord of our lives, of our whole selves. Help

us to hold high the light of Christ's hope, as a beacon to bring the world out of darkness.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

People: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation."

Leader: I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

People: Let us live new lives of Christian discipleship, unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!

INVITATION TO ADVENT

Please sing to the tune of "Breathe on Me Breath of God"

*Kindle this flame of hope.
May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God;
the journey we pursue.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Chibuzo and Faith Chilaka and family

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Please sing to the tune of "Breathe on Me Breath of God"

*God's Realm Is Our Desire
Where peace and justice reign.
Heaven and earth combined as one,
when Christ shall come again.*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #145 "What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

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

"While We Are Waiting, Come"
Chancel Choir

WAITING

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
➤ To follow text see hymn #100 in the Hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:8-14

Isaiah 2:1-5 (New Revised Standard Version)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Romans 13:8-14 New Revised Standard Version

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Choosing to Focus on What Matters”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION Wait for the Lord” WAIT FOR THE LORD

*POSTLUDE “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Jeonai Batista

Liturgist – Lucy Eyong 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 Valencia and Owens family.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 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:

Cecilia Mboh – E Divine Mboh – W Patricia Adu-Mensah - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Lucy Eyong – E Rev. Norm Story – W Chibuzo Chilaka – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Several members of our church are needing prayers; Jean O'Neill; Joyce Hill; Rev. Jay Bishop; Johanna Miller, Dorris Hamilton, Genevieve Ariege, Clyde Treat, 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; Salvation Army; 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.
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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 and any 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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Jennie Curry Bible Study will meet on, Thursday, December 1st, for our next study on *Faith Has Come*, a study of Galatians. We meet in the Library at 6:30 PM for refreshment, then do our study. All women are invited. Any question contact Kathy Story 575.202.2667, storyk@comcast.net.



11/25 – Thomas Korang

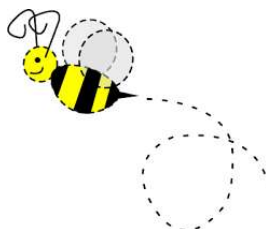
11/28 – Ed Green

12/01 – Carol Bott

12/02 – Eric Loman,

Jean Bernard Nganou

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



Salt & Light – “Church is the Place to Bee!”

Wednesday, November 30, 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
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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.

- 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



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 27, 2022 1st Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, November 28, 2022

Tuesday, November 29, 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 Budget vs. Designated funds explained meeting in Jones Hall Library with Vanessa Medina

Wednesday, November 30, 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, December 1, 2022

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

6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in the Jones Hall Library

Friday, December 2, 2022

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Sunday, December 4, 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent – Communion Sunday

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. The class will be viewing and discussing R.C. Sprout's "Face to Face with Jesus."
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

CCLI License No. 540727

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

Our Christmas get-together is planned for Friday evening, December 9th, at 6:00 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Each year, this is a joyful time, as we gather to enjoy good food, wonderful music with Vicki and Howard, caroling, and Christian fellowship. Dinner will be a planned potluck. Please let us know that you'll be coming and what category of dish (vegetable, salad, main dish, or dessert) you plan to bring by Monday, December 5th. NOTE: Let's return to our pre-pandemic

custom of bringing new or gently-used blankets or sleeping bags that evening to be contributed to those who need them through the Gospel Rescue Mission and the Community of Hope. Warm gloves, scarves and hats are also welcome. If anyone in the congregation would like to join in this effort to keep others warm this winter, just let us know. Contact: Lyn and Judith Ames, 575-526-3247, or jkames@g.com.

Coming Up in Adult Sunday School

On Dec. 4th, a new video series will begin that will continue through the season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The class, led by Catie Brewer, will be viewing and discussing R. C. Sprout's "Face to Face with Jesus." The studies are based on individual interactions that Jesus had with disciples and others.

Each video is independent of the others, so the series is ideal for this time of year, when some of us may be unable to come every week. Come to the Jones Hall Library at 9:00 AM. to join us. Everyone is welcome!



Be a Star!

At the entrances to the sanctuary are Christmas trees with "decorations" on them. These are for the Christmas Baskets that the Deacons will be distributing to families that can use some extra help this Christmas. Please consider this an opportunity to share with others this Christmas season and take a note, place it in an envelope with your donation and put it in the purple offering boxes or bring it by the church office. Deacons will be gathering on Saturday, December 17, to assemble and donate these Christmas baskets. Make someone's Christmas brighter this year with your donation! Thank you.

The **Mary Martha Circle** is once again collecting books for ages 4 months through 8-9 years old to be given away by the Children's Reading Alliance non-profit. This group was founded in 2010 and has given away many thousands of books and has trained parents on the importance of reading to and with their children. Also, there is a dedicated group of volunteers who are "**reading buddies**" in the classroom helping the children learn and want to read. We have a large, blue plastic bin in Jones fellowship hall for collecting books. Please consider donating a book or more for the upcoming holiday recess.

If you need more information, please call Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 or Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395.