

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – Communion Sunday**  
**December 4, 2022 - 10:30 A.M**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*  
*Entramos para adorar – Salimos para servir*



PRELUDE

“The Holly and the Ivy”  
“Away In a Manger”  
Jeonai Batista, Piano

Arr. Robert Schultz  
Arr. Mary Leaf

\*\*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

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:16-18 NRSV)

INTROIT

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

ANNUNCIATION

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Paul Deason

(Luke and Revelation)

Leader: Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

**People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!**

Leader: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.

**People: The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion" BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet reflection and prayer. May we grasp the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Savior's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives more worthy of all you have done for us through the coming of Jesus, your Son. Grant that all who worship you may renew their relationships with you. Help each of us rejoice in your presence and greet the coming of Jesus with gladness, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## PLEASE BE SEATED

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#89 "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits" MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

- Choral Scholars to sing verses
- Congregation to sing refrain

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, by your mercy forgive us. In this season of anticipation, the voices of advertisers and culture compete for our attention, drowning out your voice. We busy ourselves with tasks we think we're supposed to do and neglect those things we truly ought to do. Renew our spirits. Fill our hearts with joy and song so others see in us the grace and mercy you have given us through your Son. Instill in us a spirit of gratitude. Open our eyes and ears, and prepare our hearts to receive the most precious gift of all.

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** Hear the truth. Neither this world nor our lives are so broken that God cannot restore to wholeness. Trust and believe that reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

**People:** **We rejoice in the Good News that through Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.**

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

**People:** **Jesus said, 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'**

### INVITATION TO ADVENT

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

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

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jonathan and Rebekah West 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 #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

### GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon 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 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

### PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”  
➤ To follow text see hymn #87 in the Hymnal

GENEVAN

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Paul Deason

Romans 14:1, 7-10, 15:5-7, 13, 33

Romans 14:1, 7-10, 15:5-7, 13, 33 (New Revised Standard Version)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Now, About Those Who Differ”

Rev. Norm Story

\*COMMUNION HYMN

#110 “Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER

**...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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### BENEDICTION

#### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits” MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

*After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.*

#### \*POSTLUDE

“O Holy Night”  
Jeonai Batista, Piano

Arr. Martin Cuellar

*Liturgist – Dr. Paul Deason*

*Deacon Captain – Divine Mobh*

*Sound System – Curtis Benaway*

*Video – Rusty Smith*



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 InBetweeners.

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:*

*Wanda Mattiace – E      Lucy Eyong – W      Diana Howard - S*

#### *Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Amon Taylor – E      Kathy Story – W      Johnnie Aldrich – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Prayers for Linda Seaton's father; 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](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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## **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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12/06 – Mary Ferguson, Susan Trumble

12/07 – Kelly Temple

12/11 – Carolyn Schmitz

(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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### No Salt & Light on December 7, 2022

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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](http://fpc.lc) and click on the “heart” icon or [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or scan QR code
- 4) Smartphone App: Church Center
- 5) Text 84321



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, 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.

## 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, December 4, 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **Monday, December 5, 2022**

### **Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

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

### **Wednesday, December 7, 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 8, 2022**

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

### **Friday, December 9, 2022**

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

### **Saturday, December 10, 2022**

### **Sunday, December 11, 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 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



### **Mary Martha Circle Christmas Luncheon**

Mary Martha Circle invites the ladies of the church to join us at the SUNSET GRILL, 1274 Golf Club Rd. off Roadrunner Dr. for our Christmas Luncheon. We will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30 AM; no set menu. We will hear a Christmas story, and have a collection of money to support The NMSU Aggie Food Cupboard and the Children's Reading Alliance. You may also bring children's books (ages 4 months to 8-9 years) to donate. We hope you'll join us as we share Christmas joy celebrating Jesus Christ's birth.

Please RSVP by Sunday, December 11, to Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395 or Helen Moser, 575.647.3365.



### **In-Betweeners Coming Up!**

Our Christmas get-together is planned for Friday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com).



### **Christmas Baskets**

The "decorations" on our entrance Christmas trees are there for you to take, put with your donation, and return to the offering boxes in order to help families who are suffering all kinds of stress this particular year. Your deacons would love to have your help in making Christmas a joyous celebration throughout our community.

