

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2022 - 10:30 A.M**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



**PRELUDE**

“Quem Pastores Laudavere” (He Whom Shepherds Praised, ca. 1410)

Franklin D. Ashdown (b. 1942)

“When Christmas Morn Is Dawning”

Steven Scott (2005)

“Let All Rejoice This Christmas Day”

Ross Anderson (2004)

\*\*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**

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

(Psalm 98:1-2, 4 NRSV)

**MEDITATION SONG**

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”  
Jeonai Batista and Beth Thomas

VENITE ADOREMUS

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul Deason

Leader: We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ today.

**People: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

**People: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

#143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.<sup>1</sup> **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

### HYMN SING

### CHRISTMAS STORY FOR 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

"Away in a Manger"  
Jeonai Batista and Beth Thomas

CRADLE SONG

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### RESPONSE

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"  
Beth Thomas, Solo  
Jeonai Batista, Piano

Robert MacGimsey

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<sup>1</sup> attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURES LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

Titus 3:4-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Paul Deason      Deacon Captain – Gracia Class*

*Sound System – Rusty Smith      Video – Brent Brewer*

**Following the worship service please gather in Jones Hall for refreshments.**

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 Dir.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells		

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

*Cecilia Mboh – E      Dennis Thomas – W      Patricia Adu-Mensah - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Rev. Norm Story – E      Judith Ames – W      Paul Deason – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Don Rhodes; Arnold McMillan; 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; La Casa, domestic abuse shelter; Missionary Cesar Carhuachin, Presbyterian Minister, 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](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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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/26 – Dina Schroeder

12/28 – Johanna Miller, Diana Davidson

12/29 – Joy Miller-Bell

12/30 – Pam Briggs, Janet Green

1/01 – Stephanie Benaway, Cecilia Mboh, Brad Class

(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 Wednesday, December 28, 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 25, 2022 Christmas Day**

9:00 – 11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall

10:30 AM Worship Service

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

### **Monday, December 26, 2022**

**Office Closed**

### **Tuesday, December 27, 2022**

**Office Closed**

### **Wednesday, December 28, 2022**

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

**No Salt & Light**

5-7:00 PM Youth group with Karen Candusso

### **Thursday, December 29, 2022**

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

[scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)

### **Friday, December 30, 2022**

### **Saturday, December 31, 2022**

### **Sunday, January 1, 2023**

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer.

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, January 2, 2023**

**Office Closed**

CCLI License No. 540727



### **Contribution Envelopes for 2023**

If you use contribution envelopes, please pick them up in Jones Hall.  
Monthly or weekly envelopes are available.

Or, you can stop by the office and pick them up between 9am – 2pm.

*Below are the words to one of the preludes that Dr. Howard Smolleck played at the 4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.*

***“No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy”*** – Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

*No golden carriage, no bright toy;*

*No snowy bunting for one small boy;*

*No crimson roses, no marble chair;*

*Only the starlight on shining hair.*

*No crystal palace, no warm bed;*

*No downy pillow to grace your head;*

*Only the manger, stars above;*

*Only the straw ‘neath the Gift of Love .*