

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1st Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Carols of the Stable” (Based on three songs about Jesus)

Lani Smith (1934-2014)

“March of the Kings” (Early French Carol)

Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)

“Sleepers, Wake”

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

**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

“Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home! Under the shadow of thy throne still may we dwell secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure. A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun. O God, our help in ages past, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!” (Isaac Watts – 1719, hymn #687)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ES IST EIN’ ROS’

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Judith Ames

(from Psalms 90 & 92)

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

People: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

People: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#111 "From Heaven Above"

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

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

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows, we praise you and thank you for bringing us through the year behind us, and for the year ahead. Help us in this new year, to fret less and laugh more, to fear less and trust you and your promises more. May we teach our children to laugh by laughing with them, and teach others about your grace by loving them. Help us this year to recognize signs of your perfect love in every sunrise and sunset, in the beauty of the mountains and the deserts of your creation. Help us to stop and listen for your steadfast love, so that we may know and serve you better. We thank you for another new year filled with opportunities. As we leave the irreparable past in your hands and step into the unknown, we welcome your gift of a new year. **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

#145 "What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Holy and merciful God, we want to be more like Jesus, always faithful, loving, and obedient. But as you already know, there are things that we say and do that hurt other people. We remember that Jesus would go to a quiet place to think, listen, and pray, spending time with the Father. Now in our prayer, help us use this quiet time to think, listen, and pray. We want to be more like Jesus, and we are sorry that we stray from the paths of righteousness. Thank you for loving us enough to freely forgive us. Thank you for helping us to amend our ways, and for helping us grow closer to you, day by day and year by year.

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, and he did it 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. Amen.

Leader: What does Scripture reveal about the Good News?

People: This is the Good News which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to the women at the tomb, to Peter, then to the Twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord, our Savior and our God. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #140 "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

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 #128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

WZLOBIE LEZY

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "There's a Star in the East"

FOLLOW

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Ephesians 5:10-17

Revelation 3:15-22

Ephesians 5:10-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Revelation 3:15-22 (New Revised Standard Version)

“I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Intentional Priorities”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

DUNLAP’S CREEK

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Judith Ames

Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

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 Montgomery family.

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:

Lucy Eyong – E Dennis Thomas – W - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Chibuzo Chilaka – 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: The O’Neill family on the passing of Jean O’Neill; Don Rhodes; Arnold McMillan; Linda Seaton’s father; 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

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

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

1/02 – Esther Smolleck

1/04 – Jacqui Jones

1/05 – Helen Moser

1/06 – Julie Marineau, Nancy Cowan, Larry Hicks

1/07 – Joyce Hill

1/08 – Michael Deason

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

No Salt & Light *on* Wednesday, January 4, 2023

See you on January 11th

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, 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

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

12:00 PM **DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin**
No Salt & Light
5-7:00 PM Youth group with Karen Candusso

Thursday, January 5, 2023

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

6:30 PM Jennie Curry (see announcement)

Friday, January 6, 2023

Saturday, January 7, 2023

9:00 AM Elder training in Jones Hall with Rev. Story
10:30 AM Deacons training in Jones Hall with Rev. Story

Sunday, January 8, 2023 Baptism of the Lord and Communion Sunday

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

CCLI License No. 540727

Jennie Curry Bible Study

We will meet on Thursday, January 5th, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Jones Hall Library, for our next study on Galatians by Beth Moore. All women are invited to attend. If you have any questions call Kathy Story 575.202.2667 or storyk@comcast.net

Mary Martha Circle's first meeting of the New Year will be Tuesday, January 10, in the Library at 9:45 AM for a social time. Then we will continue our Bible study of the book of Jeremiah. All ladies and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend. Any questions, please call Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 or Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395.

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.

The Deacons would like to thank the many adults and children who have contributed to our Christmas Baskets this year. The committee also would like to thank the selfless Deacons who gave up their precious time on Thursday and Saturday so that the food was distributed from the store to our church and from our church to the recipients. Finally we would like to thank the SaveMart which managed to bring our original estimation even lower in price by its generosity and its manager who came in during his off hours to guarantee our order got served. What a great team to work with!



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, M-Th.

Per Capita Apportionment

Every Presbyterian (USA) congregation is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount to be paid by our congregation for the year 2023 is \$29.98 per member. Members may choose to contribute this amount, if they wish, thus freeing church funds for our ministries.

Congregational Meeting and Corporate Meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2023

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting and Corporate Meeting after Worship in the Sanctuary on January 8, primarily for the purpose of approving Dr. Norm Story's call.