

First Presbyterian Church

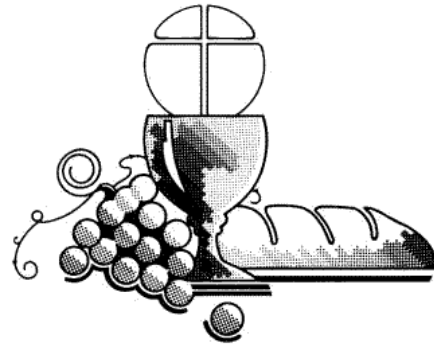
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Baptism of the Lord

Communion Sunday

January 8, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Once He Came in Blessing” (Chorale of 1531)

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

“To Jordan Came the Christ”

James Mansfield (1927-2018)

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” (Incorporating Bach’s Prelude In B Flat)

Lyndell Leatherman (b. 1953)

**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

A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ (Isaiah 40:3-5 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

PERSONENT HODIE

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(Isaiah 42)

Leader: Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

People: See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

People: Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice; let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the tops of the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#134 “Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Heavenly Father, you have placed me in the Church which your Son purchased by his sacrifice and obedience. Add grace to grace that I may live worthy of that calling. I am a voyager across life’s ocean, safe in heaven’s ark. May I pass through this troubled world into the harbor of eternal rest. I am a tree of the vineyard you have planted. Grant me not to be barren with worthless leaves and wild grapes. Prune me of useless branches and water me with the dews of blessing. May our worship be always firmly rooted in your word, our understanding divinely informed, our affections holy and heavenly, and our motives simple and pure.¹ Together, we pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

“Lamb of God”
Chancel Choir

AGNUS DEI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Great God of wisdom, compassion, and power, we ask your forgiveness for the times when we have turned away from you and your claim upon our lives. Forgive us the times that we have not used the spiritual gifts and resources that you have given us, and for the times when we have ignored and neglected those who need us. We confess that too often, when we could glorify you and make a difference, we are fearful and choose not to obey and not to serve. You have called us to be your servants, yet we get so wrapped up in our own lives that we fail to reflect your compassion. We are not faithful with all our hearts, minds, and strength. In your mercy, forgive us and inspire us once again by your Holy Spirit, guiding us and giving us courage to serve with you faithfully in all that we say and do. Through Jesus we pray.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and saves us, let us walk anew. God calls us with a holy calling, not because of our good works, but because of God's own purpose in the grace of God given through Christ Jesus. Therefore I declare to you that, in Christ, all our sin has been forgiven.

People: Through Jesus we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

¹ from *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, The Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 1975.

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

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

MARVEL

➤ To follow text see hymn #125 in the Hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Matthew 3:13-17

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Matthew 3:13-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Claimed As God’s Own”

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN #508 "Come to the Table"

COME TO THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays on the west and south sides, plus the choir and the childcare workers. The east will continue with masks and distancing, and will continue to use the pre-packaged Communion kits. There will also be kits available at west and south doors for those wishing to continue with the kits.

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

Session has called for a Congregational Meeting and a Corporate Meeting today after Worship. It is important for members to attend.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Dr. Janet Loman

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:

Patricia Adu-Mensah – E Cecilia Mboh – W Lucy Eyong - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Johnnie Aldrich – E Erin Taylor – W Janet Green – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Henrica Misquez, assistant bookkeeper; The O’Neill family on the passing of Jean O’Neill; Don Rhodes; 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; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; Missionaries Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU headquarters in Orlando Florida.

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.

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.

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 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
11:30 AM Congregational meeting and a Corporate meeting in Sanctuary
11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, January 9, 2023

5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild meeting in the Library and fellowship area in Jones Hall

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

1:30 PM Administration Ministry team meeting
7:00 PM Ministry team meetings: Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education,
Congregational Life & Outreach Support, Missions in Jones Hall.
*It is very important to attend your ministry meetings, contact your moderator to
check if this time is correct.*

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

8:00-1:00 PM “El Caldito” soup kitchen (see announcement)
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, January 12, 2023

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

Friday, January 13, 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023

10:00 AM Memorial Service for Juanita Treat in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 15, 2023 Ordination & Installation of Officers

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

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY 12/16 – Lucy Eyoung



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/08 – Michael Deason
1/12 – Dylan Anderson
1/13 – Rebecca Smith, Aline Pangoup
1/14 – Naomi Loya
1/15 – Florence Hamilton

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

Salt & Light – “Welcome Back!”

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

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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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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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.

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.

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



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.



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.



El Caldito Soup Kitchen

For more than 20 years, the First Presbyterian Church has supported the soup kitchen known as “El Caldito” by providing volunteers to prepare and serve food. Volunteers are urgently needed. Please prayerfully consider how often you can help then contact Rusty Smith. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The mission of El Caldito is to provide a healthy meal in a safe and clean environment for any hungry person.

A hot nutritious meal is served daily, Sunday through Friday, to everyone who comes to their dining room for lunch. A take-out sack lunch is offered on Saturdays.

There is no charge to guests and the only qualification to receive food is hunger. All food preparation is done by volunteers, using donated foodstuffs from various sources in the community.

Volunteer information and requirements:

Our church prepares and serves on the second Wednesday of each month from about 8:00AM to 1:00PM. A minimum of 8 volunteers is needed to complete a “crew”. The day’s crew leader will assign duties.

New volunteers are given an on-site orientation to kitchen procedures by experienced workers. There is no formal training program. Volunteers are expected to “sign in and out” to indicate the number of hours worked each day.

Ages under 15: Must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Attire: Kitchen volunteers wear clean clothes and closed-toe shoes. Shoulders and midriff are covered and pants or jeans are worn around the waist. Longer shorts are acceptable.

Hair is covered, using a hairnet, baseball cap, bandana, or other head covering, and long hair is tied back. Hairnet is provided.

An apron is worn in the kitchen, and disposable gloves are worn when handling food. Gloves are changed between tasks. Apron and disposable gloves are provided.

If you haven't volunteered for a while or would like to volunteer, please let Rusty Smith (575-642-5069) know of your interest.