

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Make Us One, Father”

Tim Doran (b. 1954)

“Abide with Me”

Lynn L. Petersen (b. 1962)

“O Worship the King”

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

****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

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. (Luke 12:29-31 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Be Joyful”

John Yarrington

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Catie Brewer

(Prayer of Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226)

Leader: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, may we sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;

People: **where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.**

Leader: O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand; to be loved, as to love.

People: **For it is in the giving that we receive, it is in the pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in the dying that we are born to eternal life.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#826 “Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

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

O God, because of your gracious love in Jesus Christ, we joyously and gratefully come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are already here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are already there. We do need our eyes of faith opened, that we may see you; our ears unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be made sensitive, that we may recognize and know you. And we need our hearts to be made tender, that we may receive you and live in you. Gracious God, draw us into your life-changing presence through our worship this day, we pray... **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 “In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord Jesus, I sin. Grant that I may never cease grieving because of it, never be content with myself, never think I can reach a point of perfection. Kill my envy, command my tongue, trample down my pride and self-righteousness. Give me grace to be holy, kind, gentle, pure, peaceable, to live for your glory and not to please myself. Deliver me from attachment to things and desires unclean and unworthy of a beloved child of God. According to your grace, help me search the shadows of my soul, that I may cast myself on your steadfast loving mercy. Lord, help me, for your presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong, and happy. Abide in me, gracious God.^[1]

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and who 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 gracious love through Christ Jesus. Friends, believe the good news, all our sins are forgiven.

People: **By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through the redeeming blood of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: Now cleansed from sin, how would God call us to live?

People: **The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.¹**

^[1] Prayer from Charles Spurgeon, (1834 - 1892).

¹ Micah 6:8

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #188 “Jesus Loves Me!”

JESUS LOVES ME

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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

CRUSADERS’ HYMN

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Arr. Lloyd Larson

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 18, 25-31

Philippians 3:7-11, 14-16, 20

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 18, 25-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Philippians 3:7-11, 14-16, 20 (New Revised Standard Version)

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if

somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Distracted from Jesus Is Lord” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #213 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” RATHBUN

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION
#188 “Jesus Loves Me!” JESUS LOVES ME

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Catie Brewer Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

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 Christian Education Ministry team.

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:

Diana Howard – E Lucy Eyoung – W Cecilia Mboh - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Catie Brewer – W Amon Taylor – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Aline Lyly Pangoup, on the passing of her mother Tchakounke Epe Pangoup Friede; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Henrica Misquez, assistant bookkeeper; The O'Neill family on the passing of Jean O'Neill; 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; prayers for all the homeless, in this cold weather; Gospel Rescue Mission; 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.
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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. If you need more information, please call Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 or Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395.

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.

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 22, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. We are starting a 12-session series by Sandra Richter, "The Epic of Eden," which is designed to help Christians understand and engage with the Old Testament. This series should take the class up to Easter.
- 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 23, 2023

- 6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas
- 7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

- 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 26, 2023

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

Friday, January 27, 2023

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

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Sunday, January 29, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. Last week we started a 12-session series by Sandra Richter, "The Epic of Eden," which is designed to help Christians understand and engage with the Old Testament. This series should take the class up to Easter.
- 9:00 – 11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/23 – Chris Rogers

1/29 – Lon Anderson

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



Salt & Light – “With Christ I Can Do All Things!”

Wednesday, January 25, 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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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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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



IN-BETWEENERS for January

On Friday evening, January 27, we plan to get together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. for a catered dinner in good fellowship. After dinner, Yolanda Koontz will present an illustrated talk about her two years as a teacher in the United Arab Emirates.

Please contact the Ames at jkames@q.com or 575-526-3247 by Monday, January 23rd, to let us know that you'll be coming.

HELP!

The Deacons are in need of van drivers on Sundays. We need your help to be able to once again get some of our members to church. Please contact Linda Ward if you can drive at least one Sunday a month. Thank you! (619) 417-6912 or lrwardps@gmail.com

REMINDER TO PICK UP YOUR BOX



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.



**COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT
DINNER NIGHT MINISTRY**

at

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

Please Come! Join us for dinner
in the home of Steve and Janet Loman
on

Friday, February 10, at 6:00PM
1622 West Union Avenue
88005

If you need a ride, please let us know!



College and Young Adult Bible Study

begins on

Monday evening, February 6, at 7:00PM
on Zoom

Please call Janet @ 575.202.4379 or
E-mail @ drjml@me.com
for the link

WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!