

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“All Praise to Our Redeeming God” (Hymn Tune of 1836) William Ringham (2020)

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Toccata on “O Love, How Deep” (Deo Gracias) Michael Helman (b. 1956)

**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

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8:5-6 *NRSV*)

CHORAL INTROIT “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Arr. Bill Ingram
Handbell Ensemble

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Alonzo Brewer
(Romans 12)

Leader: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

People: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Leader: For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

People: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

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

Gracious God, you surprise us with new and unexpected experiences of your gracious love and blessings. We come with joy and reverence to praise and adore you. Help us to be open to your presence among us and within us. May we be receptive to the power of your Holy Spirit with us. As we gather, guide us to be more attentive to your Word and more eager to do your bidding. Grant that we may recognize your touch and call, we ask in the name of Christ Jesus, who taught his disciples to 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 “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”
Leah Mathe, Solo

TOKYO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we give you thanks, for you have created us to live together in love and freedom with you and with one another in this world. You created us in your image, endowed us with gifts and resources that can reflect your love and glory, but we have fallen short. Our relationships with others are often distorted. Though our neighbors have needs, we do not always respond generously and lovingly. We have not always used our gifts well because our hearts have been set on self – not others, and not upon you. Have mercy O Lord, hear our confession and strengthen us to draw nearer to you that we may live more faithfully hereafter, through Jesus we pray.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Children of God, hear the Good News: By grace, God's free gift, our sins are forgiven.

People: But we don't deserve and cannot earn that love.

Leader: Such is that nature of God's love and grace. Beloved of God, believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

People: Our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God, Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #741 “ Guide My Feet”

GUIDE MY FEET

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

- 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

“467 “Give Us Light”

JYOTHL DHO

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“One Bread, One Body”

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

➤ To follow text see hymn #530 in the hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

1 Corinthians 3:1-10 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

1 Corinthians 3:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

2 Corinthians 5:14-19 (New Revised Standard Version)

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Love of Christ Urges Us On”

Rev. Norm Story

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Dinah Jentgen, Clerk of Session

Deacons: Karma Bromwell and Thomas Korang

*CLOSING HYMN #761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” BEECHER

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Now Go in Joy” JUNKANOO

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Alonzo Brewer Deacon Captain – Patricia Adu Mensah

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 Missions 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 Eyong – W Sharon Rooney - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Alonzo Brewer – E Debra Smith – W Rev. Norm Story – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Henrica Misquez, assistant bookkeeper; 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; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; Missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell; Missionary Cesar Carhuachin, Presbyterian Minister, Columbia, 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.

The **Mary Martha Circle** is 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.

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On Friday evening, February 24th, we'll be getting together at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Dinner this time will be a planned potluck. After dinner, David Ham, Director of the Border Patrol Museum, has agreed to speak to us about the history of the Border Patrol.

Please contact the Ames at 575-526-3247 or jkames@q.com, to let us know you're planning to come, and what type of dish you'd like to bring by Monday, February 20th.

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

Sunday, February 12, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. We are viewing and discussing 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, February 13, 2023

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

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library

3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on scripture in Jones Hall. Contact Mary Maley with questions 269-209-4357

7:00 PM Ministry team meetings: Administration; Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Congregational Life & Outreach Support, Missions, and Music & Worship in Jones Hall.

It is very important to attend your ministry meetings, contact your moderator to check on this meeting.

Wednesday, February 15, 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, February 16, 2023

The Good News Newsletter will be published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

6:30 PM Deacons meeting in Jones Hall Library

Friday, February 17, 2023

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Sunday, February 19, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. We are viewing and discussing 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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12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story
Monday, February 20, 2023 Office Closed

CCLI License No. 540727



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/12 – Michael Xu Owusu Sekeyre
2/16 – Brooke Montgomery
2/18 – Caleb Taylor, Greg Sherman
2/19 – Dutch Matkin

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



Salt & Light – “God’s Love is Infinite!”

Wednesday, February 15, 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

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



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

Mary Martha Circle

Welcome, ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, February 14, at 9:30 AM to socialize with our friends. The Bible Study will begin at 10:00 AM. We will be studying the Book of Jeremiah. We look forward to seeing you in the library.