

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 19, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



## PRELUDE

“O God, Our Faithful God” (Chorale Tune of 1693)  
“Transfiguration”  
“Fanfare”

Lani Smith (1934-2015) “The  
Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)  
James Conely (b. 1938)

\*\*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 I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5 NRSV)

## CHORAL INTROIT

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ITALIAN HYMN

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephen Taylor

(“Open My Eyes”, by Clara H. Scott)

Leader: Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

**People: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Leader: Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

**People: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me,**

## Spirit divine!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” CORONATION

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

Glorious God, it is the delight of my life to worship you. Give me power by your Spirit to help me worship now, that I may forget the world and be brought into fullness of life, be refreshed, strengthened, comforted, and blessed. Replenish me so that, saved by grace through faith, I may live by faith, feel the joy of faith, be at peace through faith, and do the work of faith. In and through our worship today, guide and show us how to more faithfully respond to your gracious love... **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 “Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House” RIDGEMOOR  
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of justice, through your servants and prophets you have made known your desire for peace and harmony to include the whole human family. Through Jesus, you have shared your vision of a caring community where every person is honored and valued. We confess that we often blur that vision by our attitude toward others. Sometimes we devalue the talents and work of other people, neglecting to see them as an intentional part of your precious creation and purpose. Have mercy on us, O gracious Savior. Help us to live more faithfully as your stewards by treating others and all of your creation with more care.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** Hear the truth. Neither this world nor our lives are so broken that God cannot restore to wholeness. Trust and believe that reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

**People:** **We rejoice in the Good News that through Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.**

**Leader:** And so what do we believe 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 “To God Be the Glory”

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

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 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”  
Chancel Choir

MORECAMBE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

COURTNEY

- To follow text see Hymn #683 in the Hymnal  
Jeonai Batista, Piano

### **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

1 John 1:1-7      2 Peter 1:1-2, 16-21

1 John 1:1-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

2 Peter 1:1-2, 16-21 (New Revised Standard Version)

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“A Lamp Shining in a Dark Place”

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #667 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI

### **GO IN GOD’S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION “You Shall Go Out with Joy” THE TREES OF THE FIELD

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Stephen Taylor Deacon Captain – Diana Howard*

*Sound System –Rusty Smith Video –Brent Brewer*



Fellowship Time this morning is hosted by George and Diane Pearson and Mary Martha Circle in celebration of Dutch Matkin’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday today. Please join us in Jones Hall.

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsor	Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells		

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

*Lucy Eyong – E Patricia Adu-Mensah – W Dennis Thomas - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Amon Taylor – E Rev. Norm Story – W Stephen Taylor – 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; 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; “La Casa” domestic shelter; Gospel Rescue Mission; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; Missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell.

## **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.

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 area 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](mailto: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.

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## **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, 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

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 (see announcement)

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

### **Monday, February 20, 2023 Office Closed for Holiday**

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

### **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

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

7:00 PM Session meeting in the Jones Hall Library  
*Elders, it is important to attend your meeting*

### **Wednesday, February 22, 2023 ASH WEDNESDAY**

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)  
6:00 PM **Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary**

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

*The Good News Newsletter will be published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: [scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)*

**Friday, February 24, 2023**

6:00 PM InBetweeners in Watkins Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

8:30 AM Elders retreat in Jones Hall Fellowship area

**Sunday, February 26, 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

CCLI License No. 540727

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

2/19 – Dutch Matkin  
2/20 – Don Rhodes  
2/21 – Bill Mattiace  
2/22 – Gerald Moser  
2/23 – Greg Sherman Jr.  
2/25 – Donna Phillips  
2/26 – Eric Montgomery

(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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**Donations** to support your church can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

- Cash or check in the offering (purple boxes in the Sanctuary)
- Check sent by mail
- 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
- Smartphone App: Church Center

- Text 84321

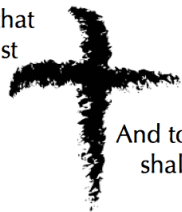


## HELP!

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 [lwardps@gmail.com](mailto:lwardps@gmail.com)

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Remember that  
you are dust



And to dust you  
shall return

### **Salt & Light – “Ash Wednesday”**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

4:00-7:00 PM Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>

**5:15 PM** - Salt & Light Dinner,  
\$5.00 suggested donation, but any amount is appreciated

**Ash Wednesday service is at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

**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](mailto: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.