

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1st Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

John Barr (b. 1938)

“The Glory of These Forty Days” (Reformation Hymn Tune of 1535) Lynn Trapp (b. 1963) “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

Michael D. Costello (b. 1979)

**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

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. (Isaiah 32:17-18 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Your Only Son”

LAMB OF GOD

Beth Thomas, Solo

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Larry Hicks

(from Psalm 147 NRSV)

Leader: Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD gathers the outcasts. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

People: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. The Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Leader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

People: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #386 "Come, Worship God"

O QUANTA QUALIA

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

Gracious Lord Jesus, we thank you for this time of worship; help us to open our hearts to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide, and when needed, a word of challenge and confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our church, that we would welcome the stranger, the wounded, the suffering, the immigrant, and the outcast. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to blossom and grow in your embracing love. May we in our worship truly celebrate your blessings and gifts, for these we thank you in the name of Jesus, who taught us 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

"Your Only Son"

LAMB OF GOD

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Gracious Lord, help us to unmask, and bring before you the truth of our lives as honestly as we can. O Lord, may we not waste the opportunity of this precious time before you, with lies, disguises, hypocrisies, or self-deceptions that hinder our chance to be healed. O Lord, bring to our minds the times when we have sinned and failed to follow you, so that we may confess and get out from under the burden of our fear and guilt. May we be transformed from our wayward ways by your loving mercy. Today, may we be restored, encouraged, and equipped to live out our faith anew into this world so much in need.

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 sacrifice of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: What is the foundation upon which we can trust and live hopeful lives?

People: **In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#649 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” AMAZING GRACE

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Chi Chibuzzo

- 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

“Send Me, Jesus”

THUMA MINA

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

CHEREPONI

- To follow text see Hymn #203 in the Hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-9

Romans 5:1-2, 17-21

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a

delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Romans 5:1-2, 17-21 (New Revised Standard Version)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Peace With God Through Christ" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM RHONDDA

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#227 "Jesus, Remember Me"

REMEMBER ME

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Rev. Larry Hicks Deacon Captain – Patricia Adu-Mensah

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 Deacons.

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:

Chi Chibuzo – E Lucy Eyong – W Linda Pearson - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Rev. Larry Hicks – W Chi Chibuzo – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Virginia Haynes and daughter Shannon; 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; Salvation Army; Community Action Agency; 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 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.

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, February 26, 2023 1st Sunday in Lent

- 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 27, 2023

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

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

Wednesday, March 1, 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, March 2, 2023

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

- 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Library (see announcement)

Friday, March 3, 2023

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Sunday, March 5, 2023 2nd Sunday in Lent

- 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/26 – Eric Montgomery

2/27 – Suzie Borchert

2/28 – Diana Davidson

3/02 – Johnnie Aldrich

3/03 – Millie Conrad, Robert Distlehorst

3/04 – Elizabeth Loman

3/05 – Ada J. Castle

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

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 and click on the “heart” icon or 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

Jennie Curry Bible Study

We will meet on Thursday March 2nd, 2023 at 6:30pm in the library, for our next study on Galatians by Beth Moore. All women are invite to attend. Have any question call Kathy Story 575 202 2667 or storyk@comcast.net .

Salt & Light – “Ask, Seek, Knock”

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

4:00-7:00 PM Grades K-12th

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 or 575-618-9474

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.