

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

2nd Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

March 5, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“One Holy Light”

Michael Shea (b. 1941)

“He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought” (With Themes from a Mozart Sonata)

Matthew McConnell (b. 1980)

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Larry Visser (b. 1962)

**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 by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(from Psalm 32)

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

People: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

People: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #49 "The God of Abraham Praise"

LEONI

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Gracious God, you who surprise us with new experiences of love, we come with reverence to praise and adore you. Help us to be open to your appearance among us and within us. Pour out, we pray, your Spirit upon us. As we your people gather; make us attentive to your Word and ready to do your bidding. Grant that we may know your touch and enter into your glory. We ask in the name of Christ Jesus, he who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forevermore, Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

"Lord, Have Mercy"

KYRIE ELEISON

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you have shown us a more excellent way, a way of love that is greater than all other ways. We confess that we have neglected love. We have failed to receive it, and we have failed to extend it. We tie it up with conditions. We make it conform to our terms. We have not accepted that it is boundless and beyond our reasoning. Forgive our timid responses to your great gift. Open us to love's possibilities, and expand our view of what love can accomplish. Help us walk renewed, faithful, and empowered new lives, blessed by the truth of your unrelenting love.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel; that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. In Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.

Leader: Let us declare what we believe using the Apostles' Creed.

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#519 "You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"

JERNIGAN

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

"Bread of Life from Heaven"
Chancel Choir

ARGENTINE SANTO

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"In Remembrance"
Holly Dalager, Oboe

Buryl Red

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Janet Loman

Romans 4:1-5, 13-14

Romans 4:1-5, 13-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"While We Were Yet Sinners"

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN

#498 "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

BEACH SPRING

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

*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.

After the congregational benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Dr. Janet Loman

Deacon Captain – Lucy Eyoung

Sound System – Curtis Benaway

Video – Rusty Smith



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 In-Betweeners.

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:

Thomas Korang – E Patricia Adu-Mensah – W Linda Pearson – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Penelope Printz – E Kathy Story – W Erin Taylor – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Gary and Charlotte Brockway; 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; 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

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.

Call the church office 575-526-5559 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, 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

Monday, March 6, 2023

- Rusty Smith - out
- 6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas
- 7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

- 8:00-1:00PM 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, March 9, 2023

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

Friday, March 10, 2023

- 6:00 PM College & Young Adult dinner night ministry at the Lomans (see announcement)

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Sunday, March 12, 2023 3rd 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
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- 9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary
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CCLI License No. 540727



Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 12



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/05 – Ada J. Castle
3/07 – Dorris Hamilton
3/09 – Wayne Maley
3/11 – Jessica Smith, Janice Sherman
3/12 – Carl Connor

(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.

- 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

If you need a ride or know someone who does, please call the church office at 575-526-5559 between 9am - 2pm.



Salt & Light – “God Keeps His Promises”

Wednesday, March 8, 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 575-526-5559
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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT

DINNER NIGHT MINISTRY

Join us for a home-cooked meal

in the home of Steve and Janet Loman

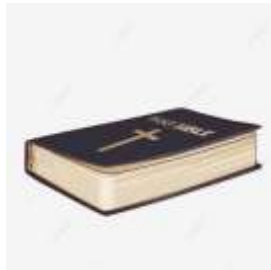
on

Friday, March 10, at 6:00PM

1622 West Union Avenue, 88005

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

If you need a ride or are bringing a friend, please let Janet know: 575.202.4379



COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“JESUS CALLS US”

Monday evenings @ 7:00PM

on Zoom

Please call Janet (575.202.4379) or

E-mail drjml@me.com for the link

(NO PREPARATION REQUIRED)

WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!



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 are 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.