

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“The Stranger of Galilee”

Passiontide” (Hymn Tune of 1734)

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Lelia N. Morris (1862-1929) (Written 1907) “Meditation for
Dennis Eliot (b. 1941)

Robert Lind (b. 1940)

**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 this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 5:5 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

OLIVET

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Green

(Psalm 100)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

People: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

People: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#772 "Live into Hope"

TRURO

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

God of heaven and earth, you who are revealed most perfectly in Christ Jesus our Lord, we thank you this day for calling us to be your people and for watching over us and guiding us in the way we should go. We come before you now, O God, aware of our need for you. We come before you to worship you and to seek your will for our lives. Bless us in this holy time. May we find words and thoughts of hope; may our feelings, as well as our minds, be engaged in your message and in your living presence. Help us to find the living Christ not only in Scripture, but in song and in praise, in prayer, and in one another. And with what we find, may we reach out to others in his most holy name...**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 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and harm we have caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have often failed to live out your compassion and light to others. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe. May we be open to new possibilities, a fresh vision of greater understanding and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truth.

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 gracious love and mercy.

Leader: May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls us is faithful, and he will do this.

People: Thanks be to God. May that grace move us closer to Christ and His intended

purpose for our lives.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #157 “I Danced in the Morning” LORD OF THE DANCE

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 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” OLIVET

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” Arr. Lloyd Larson
Jeonai Batista, Piano

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Dr. Janet Loman

Ezekiel 36:22-23, 25-30 Romans 5:1-10

Ezekiel 36:22-23, 25-30 (New Revised Standard Version)

Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. I will make the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field abundant, so that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

Romans 5:1-10 (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. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "A Wonderful Opportunity to Grow" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #353 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" SOLID ROCK

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 – Janet Green Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

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 our African community.

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:

Cecilia Mboh – E Lucy Eyong – W Linda Pearson – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Debra Smith – E Janet Green – W Rev. Norm Story – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Patrice Gabriel; 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 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.

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.

It's NOT too late to contribute to the Per Capita Apportionment

Every Presbyterian (USA) congregation is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly.

Your contribution will help offset the church's cost. This year's apportionment is \$29.98 per member. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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 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

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, March 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, March 14, 2023

9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on Scripture in Jones Hall. Contact Mary Maley with questions at 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.

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.
12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin
NO Salt & Light (Spring Break)

Thursday, March 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, March 17, 2023

5:00 PM-10AM Youth Lock-in, with Karen Candusso in Watkins Hall

Saturday, March 18, 2023

Sunday, March 19, 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
9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary
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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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/12 – Carl Connor
3/13 – Natassja Galaz,
3/14 – Joanne Kersting, Giselle Sanchez, Domhnall MacDougall-Deason
3/18 – Rev. Marcus Burr

(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



How can I 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

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

No Salt & Light *till Wednesday March 29th*

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.

Mary Martha Circle

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us on Tuesday, March 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, chapter 32. We look forward to seeing you in the Jones Hall Library.



The **Mesilla Valley Concert Band** is performing a free concert on March 12, at 3 PM in NMSU's Atkinson Hall. Vicki Kuyper and Alice Distlehorst are members.



Candy Donations for Easter Eggs

The Congregational Life and Outreach Support ministry team is collecting candy donations for our Easter egg hunt. Please make sure that candy is individually wrapped and small sized so that it can fit in a plastic egg. Non-melting type candy is preferred. Please drop the candy off at the entrance to the Sanctuary or at the church office no later than Palm Sunday, April 2. Thank you!