

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

5th Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Redemption Draweth Nigh”

Songs of Assurance”

Lord’s My Shepherd”

Gordon Jensen (1970) “The Cross: Four

Albin C. Whitworth (b. 1938) “The King of Love” and “The

Robert A. Hobby (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 I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin. (Romans 7:22-25 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Holy Spirit Come to Us”

TUI AMORIS IGNEM

Vicki Kuyper, Flute

Holly Dalager, Oboe

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Montgomery

(Psalm 36)

Leader: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: **Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.**

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

People: **For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #475 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

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

O great Creator of earth and sky, we give praise to you. We rejoice in the turning of the season as spring comes with tiny green leaves, with blossoms and chirps of nesting birds. In our hearts, renewed hope sprouts like the green shoots that grow from the soil. The winds blow away darkness, and warm sunlight invigorates us. With each new morning, we remember the infinite love and mercy you shower upon us, your children, and give you thanks. Help us hear your grace and feel your mercy as we come before you in worship. May we bend and bow to your will and purpose for us. May our worship be truthful and pleasing to you... **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 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

- If you would like to reflect on the text, #220 in the Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbors. You are rich in mercy toward us, but sometimes we are stingy in offering grace and mercy to others. You love all the peoples of the world, but we limit our love to those we know, approve of, and like. You have called us to trust in your power and grace, but too often we have placed our trust in wealth, possessions, technology, reputation, or our own abilities. You are light, but we have preferred to remain in darkness, so that our words, deeds, and selfish attitudes are less exposed. Take away our sins and renew us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News. Jesus died and rose again, overthrowing the powers of sin and death, and he did it for the sake of the world. We are enslaved no longer by the powers of darkness. We are set free to follow Jesus. Friends, believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

People: **Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

Leader: What do we mean when we speak of "the forgiveness of sins"?

People: **Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#286 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Chi Chilaka

- 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

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

HEAR MY PRAYER

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Kyrie"

Michael Joncas

Bryan Berard, Solo

Leah Mathe, Solo

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Deuteronomy 8:11-17

Romans 8:5-11, 14

Deuteronomy 8:11-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my

own hand have gotten me this wealth.”

Romans 8:5-11, 14 (New Revised Standard Version)

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. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Led by the Spirit of God”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#288 “Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

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 – Eric Montgomery Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

Sound System – Rusty Smith Video – Brent Brewer



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 Music & Worship Ministry team.

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 Chilaka – E Lucy Eyong – W Patricia Adu-Mensah - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Eric Montgomery – W Chi Chilaka – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Delfina Zertuche on the death of her sister Anita; Sara Kay; Patrice Gabriel; Gary and Charlotte Brockway; Virginia Haynes and daughter Shannon; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; 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; Community of Hope; "El Caldito" Soup kitchen; Missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell, Las Cruces, NM.

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. 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.



One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.orgt/oghs

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

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 26, 2023 5th 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 27, 2023

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

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

Wednesday, March 29, 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 30, 2023

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

Friday, March 31, 2023

Saturday, April 1, 2023

8:00 AM Buildings & Grounds Church Work Day (see announcement) All hands are needed!

Sunday, April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday

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



BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

3/20 – Kileigh Higginbotham

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

3/26 – Rayma Claessen

3/27 – Chibuzo Chilaka

3/29 – Jeanine Krenzer

3/30 – Paul Deason

4/01 – Donna Curtiss

4/02 – Cindy Tafoya, Eziuche Chilaka

(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



Salt & Light – “*Buzz into Spring*”

Wednesday, March 29, 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

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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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.



God's Work
Our Hands

Church Work Day on Saturday, April 1st

It's time to clean up our church home! There is a job for absolutely everybody. Come prepare our church for Easter. Projects big and small, short and long!

Everyone is invited to join us from 8am-Noon



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!
