

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Palm - Passion Sunday

April 2, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

Blessed is the
one who comes
in the name
of the **LORD.**

Psalm 118.26



PRELUDE

“Jerusalem”

Henry Parker (1842-1917)

“Behold, thy King draws near the city gates! Go forth, Jerusalem, with shout and song.

And moved as by one thought the people rise, and hasten forth, a glad, tumultuous throng.”

“Suite for Three Trumpets”

David Uber

Jacob Dalager, Pancho Romero, Paul McLaughlin, Trumpets

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

**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

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. On that day the Lord their God will save them for they are the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. (Zechariah 9:9, 16 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT "A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd"

CHRISTIAN LOVE

Choral Scholars

Paul Hallsted, Recorder

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Catie Brewer

(from Psalm 118)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

People: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

People: The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

*PROCESSIONAL WITH PALMS

“Blessed Is He Who Comes”

Lloyd Larson

- Combined Choirs
- Congregation join on the verses

All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King.
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went.
Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.

Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David’s royal son.
Who in the Lord’s name cometh, the King and blessed one.
To Thee before the passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To Thee, now high exalted our melody we raise!

Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring.
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King.
All glory laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Ride To Jerusalem”

Michael Burkhardt

Salt & Light Youth and Children’s Choir

Amon Taylor, Chimes

Rosalyn Stolee, Piano

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

Gathering for worship today, we are like the crowd that lined the streets witnessing your entry into Jerusalem. Some of us gather here full of enthusiasm. Some of us gather wearied by what life has thrown at us. Some of us have come out of curiosity. Some of us out of habit. Some of us gather with great expectation. Some of us with no particular hopes. It is here, O God, that you meet us and greet us and, if we will allow, it is here that you surprise us with your love and your grace. So open our eyes and hearts, and surprise us today with renewed joy, with the promise of hope, with a glimpse of your good plans for us. Through our worship we join in the cry “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”...**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

“I Love You, Lord”
Chancel Choir

I LOVE YOU, LORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O majestic God who came in humility and riding on a colt, we join the crowds of the ages shouting your praises. While our lips give you glory, our lives do not consistently reflect your greatness, and living faithfully is often beyond us. We hear of your salvation and grace, yet sin is still close and real, daily drawing us away from you. Have mercy upon us. Ride into our hearts with healing grace. Forgive the wrong of what we have done, what we have said, and who we have been. Hosanna in the highest! Lord save us, and help us live more faithful and useful lives in response to your gracious 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: Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Leader: What does Scripture teach about the nature of our God?

People: There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty; most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
Handbell Ensemble

Arr. Jason Krug

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

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
Chancel Choir

ARGENTINE SANTO

¹ THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH, 1646

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Filled with Excitement”

HOSANNA

- For text #199 in the hymnal
Paul Hallsted, Drums

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Matthew 21:1-2, 6-11, 14-15

Matthew 27:15-22, 26

Matthew 21:1-2, 6-11, 14-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.” The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry.

Matthew 27:15-22, 26 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What to Do About Jesus?”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#269 “Lead On, O King Eternal!”

LANCASHIRE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#591 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

HALLE, HALLE

- Congregation to sing refrain
- Choral Scholars to sing verses

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Trumpets: Pancho Romero, Paul McLaughlin, Jacob Dalager
Recorder & Percussion: Paul Hallsted*

Liturgist – Catie Brewer Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

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 Christian Education 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:

Diana Howard – E Sharon Rooney – W Lucy Eyong - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Amon Taylor – E Catie Brewer – W Rev. Norm Story – 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; 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; Gospel Rescue Mission; "El Caldito" Soup kitchen; Casa de Peregrinos; Missionary Donna Evans, Wycliffe Bible Translators.

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.

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



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.org/oghs

Three ways you can give:

1. Through the congregation
2. Text OGHS to 91999 to give
3. pcusa.org/give-oghs



Salt & Light – “Live in the Spirit”

Wednesday, April 5, 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



The New Horizons Symphony Orchestra
will perform a free concert this Sunday, April 2, at 3PM,
in NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall.

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, 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

9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall

9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary

Monday, April 3, 2023 Holy Week

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

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

Wednesday, April 5, 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, April 6, 2023 Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the Sanctuary

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

Friday, April 7, 2023 Good Friday Bible Meditation

11:00 AM Pastor-led meditation in the Jones Hall Parlor

7:00 PM (*Please see time change*) Concert in Sanctuary: An evening of Chamber Music

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Sunday, April 9, 2023 Easter Sunday – Resurrection of the Lord

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, April 10, 2023

Office Closed

CCLI License No. 540727



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4/02 – Cindy Tafoya, Eziuche Chilaka

4/07 – Jerome Claessen

4/08 – John Pleasant

(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



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 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.

After Worship Fellowship: The sign-up board is in Jones Hall Fellowship area.

Adult Sunday School Class: Beginning April 16, in the Jones Hall Library “Early Christian Worship” led by Larry Hicks.

Mary Martha Circle: Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, April 11, 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 38. We look forward to seeing you in the Jones Hall Library.



It's the Great Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 9th

For all kids in 5th grade or younger!

Following Worship on Easter morning, we're going to meet in the Sanctuary to get ready for the BIG EGG HUNT.

We'll have lots of eggs filled with lots of goodies for the children to find. Be sure your child brings a basket or bag to hold all the eggs they find. If you happen to forget a basket the Congregational Life & Outreach Support Ministry team will have a few extras to hand out.

Once everyone is in the Sanctuary, we will put the children into appropriate age groups and then send each group out to the hunting grounds.