

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



PRELUDE

“March On Three Easter Themes”

Mark Andrews (1875-1939)

“A Schein Suite”

Johann Hermann Schein

Brass Quartet:

Jacob Dalager, Trumpet

Paul McLaughlin, Trumpet

Bill Kuyper, Horn

Scott McLaughlin, Trombone

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

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*

EASTER SALUTATION

Leader: Alleluia!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Psalm 27:1, Luke 12:32)

INTROIT

“Let the King Come In!”

Lloyd Larson

Mary Maley and Meg Goehring, Handbells

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Montgomery

(from 1 Corinthians 15)

Leader: Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message.

**People: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.**

Leader: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

**People: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Arr. Bruce Greer

- Crown Him with many crowns, the lamb upon his throne.  
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee.  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

- Chancel Choir

- Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave.  
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save.

His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high.

Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

- Crown Him the Lord of heaven, one with the Father known.  
One with the spirit through Him given from yonder glorious throne.

To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died;

Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

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

O Lord our God, we rejoice in knowing the empty cross bears witness that the sacrifice for our redemption is made, once and forever. The tomb stands empty, too, for you are not to be found among the dead. Victory over death is won. We are your own Easter people, believers in the empty cross, in the empty tomb, in your sovereign grace, mercy, and love. We thank you, Lord, for the miracle of this day, for it gives sure and eternal hope to your people. May our lives shine out into the world with joy in the certainty that you are our God, and we are your beloved, redeemed people. **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 #240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" ALLELUIA NO. 1

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

God of power and might, we stand before the empty tomb with awe, pondering a love that is stronger even than death. We come before you asking forgiveness for those times when we have failed to believe and follow you. Your love is constant and sure, yet we confess that we have failed in our confidence and trust in you, O Loving God. On this day of new beginnings and hope, we pray that by your Spirit, we can make a fresh start. We pray in the name of Jesus, who is raised from the dead, that we may be cleansed and released from the power of sin, O Holy God. Open our eyes

and lives to the truth of the resurrection, that we will live in true freedom and blessed abundance eternally, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

## 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:** Now cleansed from sin, how would God have us live?

**People:** **The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#238 "Thine Is the Glory"

JUDAS MACCABEUS

- Congregation to sing verses 1 & 3

### 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.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Strife Is O'er"

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

### CALL TO PRAYER

"Be Not Afraid"

BE NOT AFRAID

Chancel Choir

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### ANTHEM

"Joy in the Morning"

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 118: 1, 4-7, 14, 24, 29

Matthew 28:1-10

Psalm 118: 1, 4-7, 14, 24, 29 (New Revised Standard Version)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can mortals do to me? The Lord is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me. The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 28:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Because He Has Been Raised!" Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #245 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" LLANFAIR

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" HYMN TO JOY

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck  
*Liturgist – Eric Montgomery Deacon Captain – Diana Howard*

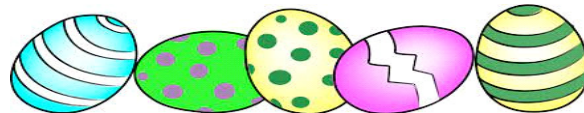
*Sound System – Jonathan West Video – Will Schroeder*

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Mary Martha Circle invites you to join us outdoors on the courtyard patio after Worship today to gather with friends, meet new ones, watch the Egg Hunt, and enjoy a snack.

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**Today after Worship is the Great Easter Egg Hunt**

*For all kids in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or younger!*

Following Worship this morning, all children 5<sup>th</sup> grade or younger with their parents will be

meeting 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.

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.

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:*

*Linda Pearson – E    Lucy Eyoung – W    Sharon Rooney - S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Eric Montgomery – E    Rev. Norm Story – W    Erin Taylor – S*

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** The family of Genevieve Ariege, Genevieve died on Mar. 30; 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, 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](mailto: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.

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](mailto: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.

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

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**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.



**One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected TODAY, 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](http://pcusa.orgt/oghs)

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**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
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 4/12 – Kathlene Walker, Divine Mboh
- 4/14 – William Kuyper
- 4/15 – Patrice Gabriel
- 4/16 – Virginia Haynes, Cole Montgomery

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

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**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](http://fpc.lc) and click on the “heart” icon or [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or scan QR code

- Smartphone App: Church Center
- Text 84321




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## CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 575-526-5559 for information on any events, or by the net: [www.fpc.lc](http://www.fpc.lc) or by e-mail:  
[linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc) Rev. Norm Story e-mail: [revstory@fpc.lc](mailto:revstory@fpc.lc)  
 Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

### **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.
- 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 Easter Egg Hunt for kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger (see announcement for instructions)
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship hosted by Mary Martha Circle

### **Monday, April 10, 2023 Office Closed**

- 5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild meeting in the Library and fellowship area in Jones Hall

### **Tuesday, April 11, 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, April 12, 2023**

- 9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light Picnic (see announcement)

### **Thursday, April 13, 2023**

Linda Ramirez will be out of the office through April 24<sup>th</sup>

*The Good News Newsletter will be published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: [scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)*

### **Friday, April 14, 2023**

### **Saturday, April 15, 2023**

### **Sunday, April 16, 2023**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Larry Hicks entitled “Early Christian Worship.”
- 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 17, 2023 Office Closed for stripping and waxing floors**

CCLI License No. 540727



**Salt & Light Picnic – “He Is Risen”**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

4:00-6:30 PM Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>

5:50 PM - Salt & Light Dinner,  
\$5.00 suggested donation, but any amount is appreciated

*Menu: Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad and Root beer floats.*

**Families are encouraged to join us for dinner at 5:50!**

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](mailto:saltandlight@fpc.lc) or 575-618-9474

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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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**In-Betweeners Save the Date**

We'll be getting together on Friday evening, April 28th, at 6 o'clock PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be catered this time, and David Thomas, local author and historian, will be our speaker.