

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



Rejoice

PRELUDE

“Behold the Man” Gertrude H. Richolson (1895-1974)

“Meditation on Songs of the Cross” Robert J. Hughes (1916-1999)

“Love’s Redeeming Work Is Done” (Hymn Tune of 1742) Rosalie Bonighton (1946-2011)

**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

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart. (Matthew 7:7-8, Jeremiah 29:13 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Linda Ward

(1 John)

Leader: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life —

People **this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—**

Leader Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father.

People **See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...so we have known and believe the love that God has for us.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE #235 “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” O FILII ET FILIAE**

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

Lord Jesus, we come in gratitude to praise and honor you and the glory of the majesty of your works. On the way to our worship today, we were surrounded by the wonder and beauty of your creation. Grant us eyes and hearts that notice the bounty of your blessings. Holy God, you fill our lives with the blessings of abundance. Help us be wise and faithful in using our lives and all they contain. Lord, show us where and how to give. Show us where and how to reflect your own gracious love and forgiveness. Show us where and how we can serve and know the satisfaction of being useful in the work and purpose of your kingdom. Help us come before you in worship that is worthy 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

“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire” VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS
Leah Mathe, Solo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, for this day and all the blessings it contains, we thank you and praise you. We live surrounded by your grace and mercy, and yet at times we live as if it were not so. Help us reset our priorities upon the eternal, and live lives that reflect your compassion and forbearance. We hear of your salvation and grace, yet sin is still close and real, and daily we are enticed and drawn away from you and your gracious ways. Have mercy upon us and enter our hearts with healing transformation. Forgive the wrong of what we have done, what we have said, and who we have been.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus and be comforted. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in me and in my love." Friends, believe the Good News, all our sins are forgiven.

People: By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through the blood of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to us?

People: With the witness of Scripture and the Church through the ages we declare: Jesus Christ is the gracious mission of God to the world and for the world. He is the Emmanuel and Savior, One with the Father, God incarnate in Mary's son, Lord of all, the true human one. His coming transforms everything. His Lordship casts down every idolatrous claim to authority. His life shows what it means to be human. His atoning death reveals the depth of God's love for sinners. His bodily resurrection shatters the powers of sin and death. In the proclamation of the Word, the Spirit calls us to repentance, builds up and renews our life in Christ, strengthens our faith, empowers our service, gladdens our hearts, and transforms our lives more fully into the image of Christ.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#817 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" DUNLAP'S CREEK

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

- 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

"Send Me, Jesus"

THUMA MINA

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

NOËL NOUVELET

- To follow the text see #247 in the Hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

John 20:19-21, 24-29 1 Peter 01:3-9,13

John 20:19-21, 24-29 (New Revised Standard Version)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'

Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

1 Peter 01:3-9,13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Questions Are Part of the Process" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #248 "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" HYMN TO JOY

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"
GOD BE WITH YOU

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Linda Ward 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 Buildings & Grounds 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:

Lucy Eyoung – E Linda Pearson – W Patricia Adu-Mensah - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Judith Ames – E Rev. Norm Story – W Linda Ward – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: A.B. and Millie Conrad; 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; Gospel Rescue Mission; "La Casa" domestic shelter; Missionary Cesar Carhuachin, Presbyterian Minister, Columbia, South America.

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

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 2:00 pm



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.

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 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 will be closed for stripping and waxing of the floors.

Rev. Story will be out of the office all week

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Vanessa Medina will be in the office this week.

Linda Ramirez will be out of the office through the 24th

Session meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 25th

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

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Thursday, April 20, 2023

6:30 PM Deacons meeting in the Jones Hall Library.

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

Friday, April 21, 2023

5:00 PM Sanctuary in use

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Sunday, April 23, 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

CCLI License No. 540727



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4/16 – Virginia Haynes, Cole Montgomery

4/17 – Jean Wertz

4/19 – Doris Morgan

4/20 – Jean Rhodes, Robert Knapp

4/21 – MariEsther Burnham

(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



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.

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On Friday evening, **April 28th**, at 6:00 PM we'll get together for a catered dinner of pasta from Lorenzo's (cost, \$10/person). As always, you're welcome to bring your own dinner and enjoy it in good company, if you prefer. After dinner, David Thomas, local historian and author, will be speaking on his latest book, *Dirty Dave Rudabaugh, Billy the Kid's Most Feared Companion*. Please let us know you plan to come by Monday, **April 24th**. Contact: the Ames at 575-526-3247, or jkames@q.com