

CHORAL INTROIT “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”
ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

TOKYO

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holly Dalagar

(Psalm 23)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

People Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

Leader You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

People Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #299 “You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim” HANOVER

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

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for the day you have made, for the life you have given, and for the love you have poured out. We thank you for Christ Jesus our Shepherd, and that he calls us by name and leads us safely to the waters that refresh and well up to eternal life. We thank you for the bread of heaven to earth come down and for the cup of salvation that lifts us up to you in glory. Please help us praise and honor you through our worship. Show us where and how we can serve and know the satisfaction of being useful in the work and purpose of your kingdom in ways that are 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

“Lamb of God”
Chancel Choir

AGNUS DEI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgiving God, as we worship you today, we are aware of our own shortcomings, our failings, and our sins. We remember how we have failed to love you fully, or to show your love to others. When we wandered away like lost sheep, stumbling through death's dark valley, you sent us your Son, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Release us from our sin and guilt by the power and love of Jesus the Christ. Help us, Lord, by your power and Spirit to live more faithful lives that reflect your truth and grace.

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: 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

#803 “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

RESIGNATION

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Chibuzo 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

“There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”
Chancel Choir

MC AFEE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”
➤ To follow text see hymn #523 in the hymnal

BICENTENNIAL

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Ezekiel 34:1-2, 4, 11-12, 15-16, 23, 31 John 10:1-11

Ezekiel 34:1-2, 4, 11-12, 15-16, 23, 31 (New Revised Standard Version)

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the

¹ THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH, 1646

injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. ... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord God.

John 10:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Called to Thrive and Flourish” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #634 “To God Be the Glory” TO GOD BE THE GLORY

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “You Shall Go Out With Joy” THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Holly Dalagar Deacon Captain – Lucy Eyong

Sound System – Max Schroeder Video – Dina 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 the Administration 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 Sandy Abernathy – W Patricia Adu-Mensah - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Chibuzo Chilaka – W Holly Dalagar – S

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: The family of Joyce Hill on her passing; Ed Green; Virginia Haynes and daughter Shannon; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; 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; "El Caldito" soup kitchen; 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**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/03 – David Curtiss

5/07 – Dale Cook

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

Mark your Calendars!

First Presbyterian Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 26 – 30

9 AM – 12 PM

Register online at: www.fpc.lc

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 30, 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, May 1, 2023

Las Cruces High School AP testing in Reeves Hall **all this week**
(please no one in or out of that building while they are testing)

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on Scripture in Jones Hall. Contact Mary Maley with questions at 269-209-4357
- 7:00 PM Missions Ministry team meeting in Jones Hall

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

- 9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.
- 12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

Thursday, May 4, 2023

- 6:30 PM Jennie Curry in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)

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

Friday, May 5, 2023

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Sunday, May 7, 2023 Communion

- 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

CCLI License No. 540727

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.



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.



Food Baskets: Please bring a nonperishable food item every Sunday for Casa de Peregrinos, the emergency food bank. Baskets are located at each of the entrances to the Sanctuary.

**HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP**

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

Jennie Curry Bible Study will be meeting on Thursday May 4th at 6:30pm in the library. We are starting "*The Faithful*" which is a study of 5 Heroes of the Old Testament. If you have questions contact me, Kathy Story at 575-202-2667 or storyk@comcast.net



Let's Honor Our Graduates!

Do you have a graduate or know of a student who is graduating from either high school or college this spring? The Congregational Life and Outreach Support team is recognizing graduates on **May 14**. Please send names to the church office no later than May 9, along with the school from which they are graduating.



Mary Martha Circle

On May 9th we will have our luncheon at the Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road at 11:30 AM.

Our lunch will be in the lounge room, first door to the right as you walk into the restaurant. The manager will make us a menu of about eight items including a couple of breakfast dishes you can choose from.

This year Jardin de los Niños would like us to bring diapers, pull-ups for toddlers, baby wipes, toiletries, small containers of sun screen, or children's insect repellent. Please bring them to the luncheon and one of our circle members will deliver them to the Community of Hope.

If you would RSVP to Cheri McMillan 575-526-2395 or Helen Moser 575-647-3365 by May 6, and let us know if you plan to attend our luncheon and hopefully bring a guest.