

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
5th Sunday of Easter – Communion Sunday
May 7, 2023 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE “He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought” Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)
 “There’s a Land That Is Fairer Than Day” Carlos Staszkeski (b. 1935)
 “Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord” David A. Schach (b. 1947)

**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

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “Bread of Life from Heaven” BREAK NOW THE BREAD

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Maley

(Psalm 121)

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: **He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

People: **The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #645 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDEN ZAET

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of heaven and earth, you who are revealed most perfectly in Christ Jesus our Lord, we thank you this day for calling us to be your people and for watching over us and guiding us in the way we should go. We come before you now, O God, aware of our need for you. We come before you to worship you and to seek your will for our lives. Bless us in this holy time. May we find words and thoughts of hope; may our feelings, as well as our minds, be engaged in your message and in your living presence. Help us to find the living Christ not only in Scripture, but in song and in praise, in prayer, and in one another. And with what we find, may we reach out to others in his most holy name, Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION #417 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

SOUTHWELL

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of majesty, you have given us your words of eternal life. Forgive us for taking too lightly this gift: for hearing your Word, but not obeying your will; for treating your Word as just one among many; for choosing that which pleases us and ignoring that which challenges us; for allowing the noise of our busy lives to distract us from your loving voice; for keeping silent instead of shouting aloud the truth of your rule and the wonder of your love. For these and all our sins against your will, forgive us, O God, we pray. From your boundless grace, grant us the power to live new lives, lived according to your will and purpose. May we be more responsive to your living Word in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION
ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. And Christ rose for us and takes away all our sin. I therefore declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.

People: In Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven; thanks be to God, amen.

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

People: We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #175 "Seek Ye First"

LAFFERTY

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

- Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER

"Alleluia"

LAFFERTY

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled"

Gordon Young

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 13:36, 14:1-11

John 13:36-37, 14:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward."

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me

¹ from The Scots Confession of 1560

has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Yes, It’s Going to Be Okay”

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN #512 “The Bread and the Wine Are Here” LOVE FEAST

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays on the west and south sides, plus the choir and the childcare workers. The east will continue with masks and distancing, and will continue to use the pre-packaged Communion kits. There will also be kits available at west and south doors for those wishing to continue with the kits.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Bread of Life from Heaven” BREAK NOW THE BREAD

After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Mary Maley

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 Jennie Curry Bible Study.

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:

Thomas Korang – E Patricia Adu-Mensah – W Diana Howard - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Judith Ames – E Penelope Printz – W Lyn Ames – 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; 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



A BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

4/30 – Eileen Hood

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/08 – Bobby Candusso

5/09 – Nancy Johnson

5/13 – Jeanette Smith

5/14 – Max Schroeder

(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



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, 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

Monday, May 8, 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)

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

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mary Martha Circle **at Sunset Grill** (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 in Jones Hall

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

- 8:00 AM Soup Kitchen (see announcement)
- 9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.
- 12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

Thursday, May 11, 2023

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

Friday, May 12, 2023

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Sunday, May 14, 2023 Graduate Recognition

- 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



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.



Mark your Calendars!



First Presbyterian Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 26 – 30

9 AM – 12 PM

Register online at: www.fpc.lc

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.



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

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.



El Caldito Soup Kitchen

For more than 20 years, the First Presbyterian Church has supported the soup kitchen known as “El Caldito” by providing volunteers to prepare and serve food. Volunteers are urgently needed. Please prayerfully consider how often you can help then contact Rusty Smith. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The mission of El Caldito is to provide a healthy meal in a safe and clean environment for any hungry person.

A hot nutritious meal is served daily, Sunday through Friday, to everyone who comes to their dining room for lunch. A take-out sack lunch is offered on Saturdays.

There is no charge to guests and the only qualification to receive food is hunger. All food preparation is done by volunteers, using donated foodstuffs from various sources in the community.

Volunteer information and requirements:

Our church prepares and serves on the second Wednesday of each month from about 8:00AM to 1:00PM. A minimum of 8 volunteers are needed to complete a “crew”. The day’s crew leader will assign duties.

New volunteers are given an on-site orientation to kitchen procedures by experienced workers. There is no formal training program. Volunteers are expected to “sign in and out” to indicate the number of hours worked each day.

Ages under 15: Must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Attire: Kitchen volunteers wear clean clothes and closed-toe shoes. Shoulders and midriff are covered and pants or jeans are worn around the waist. Longer shorts are acceptable.

Hair is covered, using a hairnet, baseball cap, bandana, or other head covering, and long hair is tied back. Hairnet is provided.

An apron is worn in the kitchen, and disposable gloves are worn when handling food. Gloves are changed between tasks. Apron and disposable gloves are provided.

If you haven’t volunteered for a while or would like to volunteer, please let Rusty Smith (575-642-5069) know of your interest.