

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
6th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Recognition of Graduates
Baptism and Welcome New Member
May 14, 2023 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE “Prelude for Mother’s Day” Lucy Ann Warriner (1992)
 “Happy the Home When God Is There” Robert J. Hughes (1916-1999)
 “Lord Jesus Christ” (Hymn Tune of 1628) Lani Smith (1934-2015)

**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

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES  Lon Anderson

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. (Isaiah 66:13-14)

CHORAL INTROIT “Come, Thou Almighty King” ITALIAN HYMN
ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alonzo Brewer

Leader: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

People: **For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 8:38-39)

Leader: Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. (Isaiah 49:15-16)

People: **As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.** (Isaiah 66:13, Hebrews 10:23)

*HYMN OF PRAISE #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

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

O Lord, what a beautiful and bright morning you have given us! What a treat to come and worship, to praise and glorify your name! In wonder, we thank you for the abundance of blessings and gifts in our lives. Were we to make a list of all the ways we are blessed, we would never be able to finish the task. Thank you, and may we be ever more mindful of your benefits, endless blessings, and steadfast loving kindness. In our worship, may we be as exuberant and eager as our children. Help us set aside the concerns of this world and come into your presence with childlike joy and anticipation. **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

"Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace"
Chancel Choir

TAMA NGAKAU MARIE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

(Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: If the Lord remembered our sin, who could stand? For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But the Lord has promised, “I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God.

People: The Lord’s name be praised. In Jesus Christ all our sin is forgiven. Amen.

Leader: Now cleansed from our sin, how should we live in faithful response?

People: Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #14 “For the Beauty of the Earth” Arr. Bill Ingram
Handbell Ensemble
Congregation to join on verses 3-5

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Chibuzo Chilaka

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

BAPTISM AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER Ariana Holguin

(Elders currently serving on Session will greet our new church family members while the congregation stands to sing hymn # 306, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”, vs. 1-2)

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verses 1-2)

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Christian love. The fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our Father’s throne we pour our
ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

CALL TO PRAYER #408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Be Thou My Vision” Alice Parker

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 49:13-16 John 14:15-21

Isaiah 49:13-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. ¹⁴ But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.” ¹⁵ Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion

for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶ See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

John 14:15-21 (New Revised Standard Version)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Pay Attention, This Matters” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #363 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” DARWALL’S 148TH

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #288 “Spirit of the Living God”
LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Alonzo Brewer Deacon Captain – Patricia Adu-Mensah

Sound System – Jonathan West Video – Will 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 Congregational Life and Outreach Support 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 Chibuzo Chilaka - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Wayne Maley; Johanna Miller’s family on her passing; Gracia Class; Patrick Cummings; Paul Deason; Virginia Haynes and daughter Shannon; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Rev. Jay Bishop; 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; “La Casa” women’s shelter; Casa de Peregrinos food bank; Missionaries Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU headquarters in Orlando, Florida.

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.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/14 – Max Schroeder

5/15 – Mary Maley

5/19 – Frank Westfall

5/20 – Lyn Ames

5/21 – Caitlin Candusso

(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



- **Pentecost Sunday** is May 28, 2023. Mark your calendars.

Church Office Hours are: Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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 14, 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 15, 2023

Tuesday, May 16, 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 Session meeting in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

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

Thursday, May 18, 2023

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

- 6:30 PM Deacons meeting in Jones Hall Library

Friday, May 19, 2023

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Sunday, May 21, 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

CCLI License No. 540727



**First Presbyterian Church
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 26 – 30
9 AM – 12 PM
Register online at: www.fpc.lc**

In-Betweeners for May

Our monthly get-together will be on Friday, May 26th, at 6:00 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Dinner this time will be a planned potluck. After dinner, Susan Waters will give an illustrated talk about the people and culture of China.

Please let us know that you plan to come and what category of dish (homemade or purchased) you'd like to bring by Monday, May 22nd. Contact: the Ames, 575-526-3247 or jkames@q.com.

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.
-
- Concert: Mesilla Valley Concert Band at the Atkinson Recital Hall on Sunday, May 14, at 3PM. Free Admission



Jeonai Batista – Master of Music in Piano Performance, NMSU

Bryan Berard – Bachelor of Music Education, NMSU

*Chibuzo Chilaka – PhD in Water Science and Management
(Water Economics and Policy), NMSU*

*Lucy Eyong – Master of Art in English (Rhetoric and Professional
Communication), NMSU*

Amon Taylor – graduating from Mayfield High School

Anastasia Owens – graduating from Las Cruces High School

Sarah Loman – graduating from Las Cruces High School

*Bionca Villalpando (niece of Linda Ramirez)
graduating from Las Cruces High School*

*Burgandy Jade Gonzales (niece of Linda Ramirez)
graduating from Las Cruces High School*