

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

7th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“To God Be the Glory”

Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Brian Glyncannon (1992)

“Gigue in G minor”

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Holly Dalager, Oboe

**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

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

(2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Sing to the Lord”

Arr. Jason Krug

Handbell Ensemble

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Brooke Montgomery

(from Psalm 96)

Leader: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

People: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”

People: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #275 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

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

Gracious Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray, thank you for this time when we can come before you and lift up the concerns of our lives. Lord God, help us to open our hearts to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide, and when needed, a word of challenge and confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our church family, that we would welcome the stranger, the wounded, the foreigner, the suffering, the immigrant, the outcast, and even the one who is really different. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to blossom and grow in your embracing love. May we in our worship truly celebrate your blessings and gifts, for we thank you in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, **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

#423 “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

SARADAY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord, you are the Creator of all things, and we are part of your creation. You call us to live in faithfulness with you and in loving harmony with others. We are too easily distracted by our wants and desires because our perspective is too small and focused on ourselves. By your grace and power, cleanse us of our selfishness, and enlarge our lives. May we be more faithful, more caring, more just and more merciful. Teach us to treasure your truth, that hereafter we might not willfully sin against you. 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: Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and who saves us, hear the words of Jesus from the Gospel of John 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. By God’s grace through Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: How does the Holy Spirit help us live faithful lives?

People: **In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹**

¹ from the Brief Statement of Faith, adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 1993.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"As the Deer"

As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants for You. Psalm 42:1

Harmony optional

1. As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, So my soul long-eth af - ter Thee.
2. You're my friend and You are my broth-er, E-ven though You are a King.
3. I want You more than gold or sil-ver, On-ly You can sat - is - fy.

You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, And I long to wor - ship Thee.
I love You more than an - y oth-er, So much more than an - y - thing.
You a - lone are the real joy giv-er, And the ap - ple of my eye.

Refrain

You a - lone are my strength, my shield; To You a - lone may my

spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

heart's de - sire, And I long to wor - ship Thee.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

James O'Neal and Dawn Griffin-O'Neal

(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.*

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

"Lead Me, Guide Me"
Chancel Choir

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" Setting by Jody W. Linda

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Ephesians 2:4-10

1 Peter 4:10-14, 5:6-11

Ephesians 2:4-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

1 Peter 4:10-14, 5:6-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may

be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Christian Life, Active and Lived Well" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #839 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" ASSURANCE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION #546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"
SICILIAN MARINERS

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Brooke Montgomery 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 Valencia and Owens family.

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:

Nancy T. Johnson – E Sandy Abernathy – W Linda Pearson - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Brooke 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: Marcia Westfall; 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; Community of Hope; 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.



5/21 – Caitlin Candusso

5/22 – Randy McFerrin

5/23 – Kip Smits

5/24 – Rev. Norm Story

5/26 – Bill Haynes

5/27 – Erin Taylor, Claire McFerrin

5/28 – Rusty Smith, John Curry,
Noel Rooney, Mikki Allbright

(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



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

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@g.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.

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 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

Monday, May 22, 2023

Rev. Story will be out of the office until Monday June 13.

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

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

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

- 12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

Thursday, May 25, 2023

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

Friday, May 26, 2023

- 6:00 PM In-Betweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Sunday, May 28, 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
2:00 PM Wind Quintet Concert, in the Sanctuary, free admission

Monday, May 29, 2023

Office Closed

CCLI License No. 540727

- ❖ Concert: May 21, at 3:00 PM. New Horizons Symphony Orchestra, Atkinson Recital Hall, free admission.

Mark your Calendars!



First Presbyterian Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 26 – 30

9 AM – 12 PM

Register online at: www.fpc.lc



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4

PENTECOST SUNDAY - NEXT WEEK, MAY 28
Everyone is encouraged to wear **RED** in celebration of
this special day in our church year.

Pentecost Offering

You can help shape our church's future by giving to the Pentecost Offering. It will provide opportunities for our young people to forge a deep and lasting faith on which to build their lives.

This offering will be taken Sunday, May 28.