

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (Swedish Folk Tune) James Mansfield (1927-2018)

“My Song Is Love Unknown” (British Hymn Tune) Lani Smith (1934-2015)

“Jesus Lives!” (British Hymn Tune of 1852) Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

Jesus lives! To Him the throne over all the world is given:

May we go where He has gone, rest and reign with Him in heaven.

Alleluia! (Christian F. Gellert, 1757)

**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

... for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. (Galatians 3:26, 4:6-7 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“You Belong to Christ”

YOU BELONG TO CHRIST

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Johnnie Aldrich

(Psalm 37)

Leader: Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

People: **Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

Leader: Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.

People: **The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#245 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

LLANFAIR

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

O Lord, may we never forget the infinite blessing of your willingness to hear our prayers, and that you are always present with us. Thank you for bringing us through life's storms and through the dry, questioning seasons of our lives. This day, may we hear your grace and feel your mercy as we come before you in worship, and in response, may we bend and bow to your will and purpose for us. Help us, Holy Spirit, to worship in truthful and joyful expectation. Lord, we know that we are here today because you brought us, and have something special for us, some message of grace and hope. May we receive, and not reject or deny, your gift of love, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught His disciples... **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 #422 “Create in Me a Clean Heart” **CREATE IN ME**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of justice, through your servants and prophets you have made known your desire for peace and harmony to include the whole human family. Through Jesus, you have shared your vision of a caring community where every person is honored and valued. We confess that we often blur that vision by our attitude toward others. Sometimes we devalue the talents and work of other people, neglecting to see them as an intentional part of your precious creation and purpose. Have mercy on us, O gracious Savior. Help us to live more faithfully as your stewards by treating others and all of your creation with more care.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear and believe the Good News! If anyone is in Christ, there is a new beginning. What was old is past and gone. Everything has become alive with new possibilities. Step forward into fullness of life with the certain knowledge that in Christ we are forgiven and freed.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God, Amen.**

Leader: Now cleansed from sin, how would the Lord our God have us live?

People: **The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#649 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER #840 “When Peace like a River” VILLE DU HAVRE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Hymn of Promise” Natalie Sleeth

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Romans 6:3-8, 11, 14, 23

Ephesians 2:1-10

Romans 6:3-8, 11, 14, 23 (New Revised Standard Version)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 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.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “God, Who First Loved Us” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

“He Lives”

ACKLEY

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
and just the time I need Him He's always near.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
and though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast,
the day of His appearing will come at last.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

Rejoice, rejoice O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
none other is so loving, so good and kind.

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.*

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

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Liturgist – Johnnie Aldrich

Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

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 Topley family celebrating Harry and Marsha's Anniversary.

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:

Chibuzo Chilaka – E Sandy Abernathy – W Lucy Eyong – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Debra Smith – W Johnnie Aldrich – S

Please remember in your prayers: Mary Olberg; Josie Frieze; Jean Rhodes and family on the passing of Don Rhodes; Marcia Westfall; Wayne Maley; 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 domestic shelter; 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.

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



- 6/25 – Norma Klein
- 6/27 – Rosalyn June Stolee
- 6/30 – Melanie Grant
- 7/01 – Brad Class

(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





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



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.

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, June 25, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing “The Chosen” season 3.
- 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, June 26, 2023

9:00 AM – Noon **Vacation Bible School all week!**

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Rev. Story will be out of the office

3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on Scripture in Jones Hall. Contact Marsha Topley with questions

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

Thursday, June 29, 2023

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

Friday, June 30, 2023

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

Saturday, July 1, 2023

Sunday, July 2, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing and discussing “The Chosen” season 3.
- 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

Church Office Hours are: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
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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 on Friday, June 30th

The 30th is a fifth Friday, not our usual fourth, but on that date our friend David Thomas has obtained a very special program for us! Dan Crow and Karla Steen, professional Western singer/songwriters have agreed to present music based on their album “Sidekicks and Saddle Pals” for us. These are original compositions based on the legends of iconic Old West figures. It’s a good evening to invite guests!

Dinner at 6 pm in Watkins Fellowship Hall will be pizza and salad this time (\$10/person). As always, it’s fine to bring your own, if you wish. Please let us know that you plan to come by Monday, June 26th. Contact: the Ames, 575-526-3247 or jkames@q.com.



Celebrate the 4th a little early this year

Sundaes on Sunday, July 2

The Congregational Life team invites you to join us and eat a nice, cool bowl of ice cream! Top it off with *almost* every topping you can imagine.

When and Where: After Worship on Sunday, July 2, at the fellowship area in the courtyard.

