

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
6th Sunday after Pentecost - Welcome New Members
July 9, 2023 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”

David H. Hegarty (b. 1945)

“All Is by God’s Blessing” (Late 17th-Century Chorale)

Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947)

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, ‘Come Unto Me and Rest’”

(British Hymn Tune of 1868) Reginald (Rex) Koury (1911-2006)

**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

Thus says the Lord: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim Parks

(from Psalm 34)

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

People: **O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

Leader: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.

People: **The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#299 "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

HANOVER

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

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may walk more worthily with you. O Lord, may we not waste this precious time and opportunity of joyful worship, but let your light shine in and through us, bright and true. We thank you for bringing us here to be with you and worship you; here in your presence, all are invited and welcome. We are thankful to be needed and precious in this fellowship, where all are loved and blessed by you, our awesome and wonderful God. We pray that we will draw nearer to you, hear your voice, experience your grace, and be transformed from our wayward ways, 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

#418 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have failed to faithfully live your compassion and light. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe in you. May we be open to a vision of new possibilities and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and sacrificial service. Holy Jesus, our living hope, may we become more and more responsive to your grace and to your call.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus as recorded in 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. Through the sacrifice of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to us?

People: With the witness of Scripture and the Church through the ages we declare: Jesus Christ is the gracious mission of God to the world and for the world. He is the Emmanuel and Savior, One with the Father, God incarnate in

Mary's son, Lord of all, the true human one. His coming transforms everything. His Lordship casts down every idolatrous claim to authority. His life shows what it means to be human. His atoning death reveals the depth of God's love for sinners. His bodily resurrection shatters the powers of sin and death. In the proclamation of the Word, the Spirit calls us to repentance, builds up and renews our life in Christ, strengthens our faith, empowers our service, gladdens our hearts, and transforms our lives more fully into the image of Christ.¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#410 "God Is Calling through the Whisper"

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

CELEBRATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

William (Bill) Akins and Margaret Ruth Akins

(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

Lon Anderson

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

CALL TO PRAYER

"Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"
Chancel Choir

WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"I Will Come to You"

YOU ARE MINE

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

¹ from Union in Christ: A declaration for the church by Mark Achtemeier and Andrew Purves, PC(USA), 1997.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-14, 32-33

Matthew 11:16-17, 25-30

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-14, 32-33 (New Revised Standard Version)

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God. But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. With your faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. For the Lord hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds.

Matthew 11:16-17, 25-30 (New Revised Standard Version)

But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Running Hard, but on Empty"

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #796 "We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

LAND OF REST

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Farewell, Good Friends!"

SHALOM, CHAVERIM

➤ To follow text see Hymn #540 in Hymnal

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Those who are able, please stand

Please turn off all cell phones

Liturgist – Jim Parks Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh

Sound System – Brent Brewer Video – Will Schroeder



Tall Fresh Flower Arrangements: Today's flowers are given in celebration of Wayne, Marianne and Mary Maley and the many blessings and gifts that they share so willingly with others. In gratitude for being on the receiving side.

–Kathy Baker



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 Mary Martha Circle.

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:

Linda Pearson – E Sandy Abernathy – W Sharon Rooney – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Jim Parks – E Lon Anderson – W Rev. Norm Story – S

Please remember in your prayers: Melanie Grant; Ada Castle; Nancy T. Johnson; Mary Olberg; Florence Hamilton; Josie Fietze; Jean Rhodes and family on the passing of Don Rhodes; Marcia Westfall; Wayne and Marianne Maley; Virginia Haynes and daughter Shannon; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Rev. Jay Bishop; Dorris Hamilton and son Rio 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; all the homeless; school teachers; St. Luke's Health Care Clinic; 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



7/10 – Lorry Hoksch

7/13 – Joseph Higginbotham

7/14 – Ed Mathis

7/15 – Marill Crouse, Amy Pleasant

7/16 – Steve Harbaugh

(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.



Make a difference!

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. Thank you for your support.

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 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

Sunday, July 9, 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, July 10, 2023

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on Scripture in Jones Hall. Contact Marsha Topley with questions
- 7:00 PM Ministry team meetings in Jones hall. Check with your moderator.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

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

Thursday, July 13, 2023

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

Friday, July 14, 2023

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Sunday, July 16, 2023 Blessing of the Backpacks

- 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
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CCLI License No. 540727

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



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 either Linda Ward, Lon Anderson, or Diana Howard. 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 Linda Ward 619-417-6912, Lon Anderson 575-649-4108, or Diana Howard 575-649-4266 know of your interest.

New Backpacks & School Supplies Needed



The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church are requesting donations of New backpacks and school supplies for children in need this school year.

Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Plastic bins will be located at each entrance of the Sanctuary or they can be dropped off in the office no later than July 13th.

Here are some suggestions for school supplies:

- Wide-ruled paper
- 70-page wide-ruled spirals
- #2 pencils
- Pens with blue or black ink
- Scissors (Pref. Fiskars)
- Large erasers
- Colored Pencils
- Large boxes of tissues
- Glue sticks
- Composition notebooks
- New Backpacks
- Folders with pockets and prongs
- Crayons
- Watercolor markers
- White school glue
- Rulers

Blessing of the Backpacks will be on Sunday, July 16th.

If you know of a child who is in need of a backpack and school supplies for this year please email the Church office at Linda@fpc.lc with name of child, grade in school, boy/girl, and parents name and phone number so we can call them at a later date.



Socks and Undies

For many of you NEW underwear and socks are something that you normally aren't concerned about having and can easily be gotten; but to some their financial reality doesn't allow them to purchase underwear and socks at all, even if they are needed. The Deacons' mission is to collect NEW socks and undies for the underprivileged children. Plastic bins are located at each door of the Sanctuary to collect donations. So, next time you are shopping make sure to toss an extra package of underwear or socks into your cart. *All sizes are needed*, to help clothe a child.

This donation of NEW socks and undies will be given to the Gospel Rescue Mission for their back-to-school program. In the past years we have collected a bountiful harvest. Your support is greatly appreciated and God bless.