

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

8th Sunday after Pentecost – Welcome New Member

July 23, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Bringing In the Sheaves” (19th-Century Gospel Song) Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter” (18th-Century Hymn Tune) Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

“Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth” Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**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

Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye. (Matthew 7:3-5 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

BLESS THE LORD

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Janet Green

(from Psalms 103 and 89)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, do not forget all his benefits and who forgives all your iniquity, and who heals all your diseases.

People: **The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

People: **Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE #363 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"**

DARWALL'S 148TH

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

O Lord our God, how good it is to gather once again in your Presence and leave behind the stress of our busy lives and the corrupting influences of our world! Here, O Lord, may we hear your voice, bathe ourselves in your truth and promises, and here may we experience what it is to be the one body of Christ, truly a family united in love and faith. We pray that you will send your Spirit to still and comfort our troubled minds. Restore to us the peace and joy of your salvation, so that we may respond in faithfulness and obedience. May our passion and desire be to more fully know and honor you. **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 "The Old Rugged Cross"

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross . . .

— Hebrews 12:2

RUGGED CROSS
George Bennard

George Bennard

1 On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross, The em-blem of
2 *O that old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world, Has a won-drous at-*
3 In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, A won - drous
4 *To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, Its shame and re -*

1 suf-fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dear-est and best
2 *trac-tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo - ry a-bove*
3 beau - ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died
4 *proach glad-ly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,*

1 For a world of lost sin-ners was slain.
2 *To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged*
3 To par-don and sanc-ti - fy me.
4 *Where His glo - ry for-ev - er I'll share.*

cross, 'Til my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the

old rug-ged cross, And ex-change it some day for a crown.

Copyright 1913 by George Bennard. © renewed 1941 (extended). The Rodeheaver Co., owner. Used by permission.

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we come to you to confess our faults before you. We know that too often we have forgotten you, even though you are so faithful to us. Our spirits thirst for nourishment and meaning in life. We forget all that you have done for us and show little gratitude for the blessings of our lives and the wonder of creation. We fail at being servant-like for one another and loving our neighbors as you have loved us. Forgive our sinful pride and stubborn arrogance, our self-absorption and trust in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive our indifference to others, and by your grace, bring us

closer to you and to each other as we seek the new life offered through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus 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: 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

#43 "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord" ON EAGLE'S WINGS

- Choir to sing verses
- Congregation to sing refrain

NEW MEMBER CELEBRATION AND WELCOME

Kileigh Higginbotham

(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

Chibuzo Chilaka

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#370 "This Is My Father's World"

TIERRA BEATA

- Choir to sing verse 1
- Congregation to join on verse 2

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"My Lord! What a Morning"

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Genesis 28:10-19 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-39

Genesis 28:10-19 (New Revised Standard Version)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-39 (New Revised Standard Version)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house.

And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Leave Some Room for Redemption"

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #317 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

MC KEE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #600 "Amen"

AMEN

Amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Liturgist – Janet Green 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 Eric and Brooke Montgomery.

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Ada Castle, Commissioned Pastor		Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Paul Deason, Commissioned Pastor		Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells		

Greeting before Worship Service:

Diana Howard – E Sandy Abernathy – W Patricia Adu-Mensah – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Janet Green – W Chibuzo Chilaka – S

Please remember in your prayers: Sandra Valencia; Melanie Grant; Mary Olberg; Jean Rhodes and family on the passing of Don Rhodes; 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; St. Luke's Health Care Clinic; Missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell.

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

HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP

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



- 7/23 – Linda Ward
- 7/24 – Jim Ward
- 7/26 – Vicki Kuyper, Mary Jo Billiot
- 7/27 – Debra Smith, Delfina Zertuche
- 7/28 – Marcia Westfall
- 7/29 – Michelle Osborne
- 7/30 – Howard Smolleck, Clyde Treat

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 or email Linda at linda@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.

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



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, July 23, 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 Paul Deason

Monday, July 24, 2023

Beth Thomas will be out all week
 Rusty Smith will be out today
Rev. Story will be out of the office all week

- 1:30 PM Storytellers in Jones Hall Library

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Rusty Smith will be out today

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

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

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

Thursday, July 27, 2023

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

Friday, July 28, 2023

Edwina Román, assistant bookkeeper will be out of the office

- 6:00 PM In-Betweeners (see announcement)

Saturday, July 28, 2023

Sunday, July 30, 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**



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.



IN-BETWEENERS COMING UP!

On Friday evening, July 28th, we'll be getting together at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Dinner this time will be a planned potluck. After dinner, Lya and Jay Jordan will present an illustrated talk about her home country, the Seychelles Islands, located east of Africa and north of Madagascar. Please let us know that you plan to come, and what category of dish (homemade or purchased) you'd like to bring, by Monday, July 24th. Contact: the Ames, 575-526-3247 or jkames@q.com.



Welcome, Edwina Román to our church staff. Edwina is the new assistant bookkeeper.

You can email her at assistant@fpc.lc. Her hours will be tentative during training. After training, we will post her hours. Vanessa can still be reached at books@fpc.lc.