



realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are already here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are already there. We do need our eyes of faith opened, that we may see you; our ears unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be made sensitive, that we may recognize and know you. And we need our hearts to be made tender that we may receive you and live in you. Gracious God, draw us into your life-changing presence through our worship, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us . . . **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

“In Deepest Night”

ROSE MARY

Chancel Choir

- To follow the text see hymn #785 in the hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, you have given us everything;  
we have failed to respond with gratitude.

In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word;  
we answer with empty promises and lies.

In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light;  
we try to hide ourselves from your glory.

In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life;  
even this precious gift we have not received.

Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us.

In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what you created us to be: beloved children, full of grace and truth. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: You have been called by God, claimed in Christ, set free through the Spirit.

People: **Believe this Good News: in Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #634 “To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#188 “Jesus Loves Me!”

JESUS LOVES ME

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Shall Tribulation or Distress”

ROMANS 8

- To follow the text see hymn # 823 in the hymnal

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

Deuteronomy 32:8-14      Romans 8:26-39

## Deuteronomy 32:8-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

When the Most High apportioned the nations, when he divided humankind, he fixed the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the gods; the Lord's own portion was his people, Jacob his allotted share. He sustained him in a desert land, in a howling wilderness waste; he shielded him, cared for him, guarded him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young; as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions, the Lord alone guided him; no foreign god was with him. He set him atop the heights of the land, and fed him with produce of the field; he nursed him with honey from the crags, with oil from flinty rock; curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs and rams; Bashan bulls and goats, together with the choicest wheat—you drank fine wine from the blood of grapes.

## Romans 8:26-39 (New Revised Standard Version)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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.

Leader:      This is the word of the Lord.

People:      **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Predestined to Hope"

Dr. Janet Loman

\*CLOSING HYMN #703 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

ST. CATHERINE

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #188 "Jesus Loves Me!" JESUS LOVES ME

*Refrain only:**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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

**Please turn off all cell phones**

*Liturgist – Jerry Moser*

*Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh*

*Sound System – Jonathan West*

*Video – Rusty Smith*



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 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
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:*

*Chibuzo Chilaka – E   Patricia Adu-Mensah – W   Thomas Korang – S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Debra Smith – E   Jerry Moser – W   Dr. Janet Loman – S*

**Please remember in your prayers:** The Grant family; 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 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](mailto: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.



- 7/30 – Howard Smolleck, Clyde Treat
- 7/31 – Brent Brewer
- 8/01 – Cheri McMillan
- 8/02 – Jeremy Borchert, Arnold McMillan, Diana Knapp
- 8/04 – Nancy Cox, Kaaren Morehart
- 8/06 – Judy Hicks, Gerald Carson

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 or email Linda at [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc))

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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.

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**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](http://fpc.lc) and click on the “heart” icon or [fpc.lc/giving](http://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](http://www.fpc.lc) or by e-mail: [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc) Rev. Norm Story e-mail: [revstory@fpc.lc](mailto:revstory@fpc.lc)  
Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

### **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

### **Monday, July 31, 2023**

### **Tuesday, August 1, 2023**

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

### **Wednesday, August 2, 2023**

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

### **Thursday, August 3, 2023**

*The Good News Newsletter will be published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: [cotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)*

- 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in the Jones Hall Library

### **Friday, August 4, 2023**

### **Saturday, August 5, 2023**

### **Sunday, August 6, 2023**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library.
- 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 Luncheon in Watkins Fellowship Hall to get acquainted with Rev. Nick Koontz. (see announcement)

**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.



We are pleased to welcome **Rev. Nick Koontz** who will begin as our Director of Family

Ministries in August. Nick is an ordained minister in the Disciples of Christ denomination. He comes to us after serving as pastor of a church in Arkansas, and having served as Youth Director at two Presbyterian churches in Texas. He will be commissioned during our worship on August 6, which will be followed by a church luncheon for you to welcome him and volunteer to help.