

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

August 13, 2023 - 10:30 A.M  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



## PRELUDE

“O God of Life’s Great Mystery” (Hymn Tune of 1951) Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947)

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (Hymn Tune of 1784) Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

“Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem” John Henry Maunder (1858-1920)

\*\*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 I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you... For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel (Jeremiah 15:20-21, Isaiah 43:2-3 NRSV)

## CHORAL INTROIT

“You Have Put On Christ”

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Yolanda Koontz

(Psalms 70 & 71)

**Leader:** Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

**People:** **In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

**Leader:** For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all day long.

**People:** **I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God, I will praise your righteousness, yours alone. My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have rescued.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

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

Lord of All, your love and your faithfulness are unending, and sustain us in ways beyond our understanding. You care for us and hear our prayers, even when we are selfish, foolish, or muddle our words. You make things come out right even when we have given up in despair. How awesome and wise are your ways, O Lord! We thank you. Allow us to see you with the eyes of faith, and to hear with understanding what you say to us. Awaken in us a longing to do what is right. O may our focus be upon you, that we may find faith and life, healing and hope. We ask this in Jesus' name, who taught his disciples 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 #835 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

CLOSER WALK

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Creator God, how rich and beautiful is this world you have made! We confess that we often forget to give you thanks, acting as though what we have is of our own work and achievement. We consume the fruits of creation, forgetting that you call us to bear fruit ourselves. We often do not share with others the way you intended. We treat your generosity and blessings as our right and hold them possessively to ourselves. Forgive us, O God. Help us to trust in you so deeply that we will stop worrying and share more freely with others, knowing that your grace and abundance will never run out.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** We read in First John, "and this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is God's promise, that through Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

**People:** **"If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." In Jesus Christ we are 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. Help us 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<sup>[1]</sup>

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #480 "Take Me to the Water" TAKE ME TO THE WATER

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Erin Taylor

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *Sacramento de Bautismo*

Karina Paita Cordova and Naim Mathias Gutierrez Paita  
(son of Jose Gutierrez Ugarte and Karina Paita Cordova)

CALL TO PRAYER "As a Child Rests" AS A CHILD RESTS  
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Ho, All Who Thirst" JACOB'S WELL  
• To follow text see hymn # 479

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-14, 30, 33-34 Matthew 14:22-33

Psalm 69:1-3, 13-14, 30, 33-34 (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. I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. For the Lord hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds. Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

Matthew 14:22-33 (New Revised Standard Version)

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Wondering What God's Up To" Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #269 "Lead On, O King Eternal!" LANCASHIRE

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "You Shall Go Out with Joy" HE TREES OF THE FIELD

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

**\*Those who are able, please stand** **Please turn off all cell phones**

*Liturgist – Yolanda Koontz Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh*

*Sound System – Jonathan West Video – Will Schroeder*



After church fellowship.

Please join us for cake provided by Noel and Sharon Rooney who are celebrating 67 years of marriage this month.

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

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

*Diana Howard – E   Sandra Abernathy – W   Patricia Adu-Mensha – S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Erin Taylor – E   Rev. Norm Story – W   Yolanda Koontz – S*

**Please remember in your prayers:** Rev. Jay Bishop; The Grant family; Mary Olberg; Jean Rhodes and family; Wayne and Marianne Maley; Virginia Haynes and daughter Shannon; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; 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; St. Luke's Health Care Clinic; Pasos de Fe (Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas); Community of Hope; Missionaries Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU headquarters, 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.

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8/14 – Sheena MacDougall (wife of Michael Deason)

8/19 – John Grant

8/20 – Ralph Miller

(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 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**

Guess who’s coming to dinner — The Salty Dogs Blue Grass Band! They will be returning to provide our program on Friday evening, August 25th. We plan to get together at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall for a pulled pork barbecue dinner (cost, \$10/person.) Then, we’ll enjoy the music. If you would like to bring your own meal, that’s absolutely fine; just let us know, so we won’t order for you. Please contact the Ames at 575-526-3247, by Monday, August 21st.



The Youth will be having a yard sale September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 in Watkins Hall! Any and all donations are welcomed. Items can be dropped off at the church office. If assistance is needed to pick up, or transport heavy items, please contact Karen Candusso at 575-618-9474 or call the church office at 575-526-5559.

Thank you for supporting the FPC Youth!  
Karen Candusso

## 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, August 13, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. Last Sunday we begin a series entitled, "Beginnings of Judaism" (<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/beginnings-of-judaism>) that describes the transition from the nation of Israel of the Old Testament to the different sects of Judaism during Jesus' time to the Jewish faith and peoples today. We will meet most Sundays in the summer in the Library from 9 am - 10:15 am.

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

3:00 PM Chamber String Concert in the Sanctuary

### Monday, August 14, 2023

### Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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

7:00 PM Session meeting in the Library

### Wednesday, August 16, 2023

9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting

12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

### Thursday, August 17, 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 Deacons meeting in the Library

### Friday, August 18, 2023

### Saturday, August 19, 2023

### Sunday, August 20, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing a series entitled, "Beginnings of Judaism" (<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/beginnings-of-judaism>) that describes the transition from the nation of Israel of the Old Testament to the different sects of Judaism during Jesus' time to the Jewish faith and peoples today.

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CCLI License No. 540727



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES  
INVITES ITS WOMEN TO A BRUNCH AND BIBLE STUDY**

on

Saturday, August 19, at 11:00AM

at the home of Steve and Janet Loman

1622 W. Union Avenue, 88005

(child-care provided by our youth)

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**AND EVERYONE PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR REGULAR DINNER NIGHT**

In the same location

Friday, September 8, at 6:00PM

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

(If you need a ride or are bringing a friend, please let Janet know: 575-202-4379)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!