

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico
13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE “Take Time to Be Holy” Lani Smith (1934-2015) “We Are God’s People” (Music from Johannes Brahms’ First Symphony, 1876)
Fred Bock (1939-1998)
“I Surrender All” Michael Shea (b. 1941)

**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 we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:3-5 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “We Lift Our Voices” OFFERING

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Winnie Quinzi
(Psalm 135)

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; give praise, O servants of the LORD, you that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

People: **Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for he is gracious.**

Leader: He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth; he makes lightnings for the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

People: **Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages. For the LORD will vindicate his people, and have compassion on his servants.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#712 “As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought” FOREST GREEN

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

Gracious Redeemer God, as we gather in worship, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to fall afresh on us. We pray for your Spirit to awaken new hope in us. Grant us the vision to see the

coming of your kingdom. Help us to celebrate the glimpses of grace that you have given to each of us. Knit our hearts together in worship so that we know we do not struggle alone in working for your peace and justice. From our worship may we emerge empowered and encouraged to go out into the world proclaiming the Good News. Praying as Christians have prayed through the ages, **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

“O Lamb of God”

LAND OF REST

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord, you are the Creator of all things, and we are part of your creation. You call us to live in faithfulness with you and in loving harmony with others. We are too easily distracted by our wants and desires because our perspective is too small and focused on ourselves. By your grace and power, cleanse us of our selfishness, and enlarge our lives. May we be more faithful, more caring, more just and more merciful. Teach us to treasure your truth, that hereafter, we might not willfully sin against you. Help us, Lord, by your power and Spirit to live more faithful lives that reflect your truth and grace. O Lord, grant that in the silence we may hear your voice.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the truth. Neither this world nor our lives are so broken that God cannot restore to wholeness. Trust and believe that reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

People: **We rejoice in the Good News that through Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.**

Leader: And so what do we believe about the Good News?

People: **This is the Good News which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to the women at the tomb, to Peter, then to the Twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord, our Savior, and our God. Amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #701 “Lord, Prepare Me”

SANCTUARY

- Choir to sing one time through
- Congregation to join second time

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Chibuzo Chilaka

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

HEAR MY PRAYER

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“One Bread, One Body”

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

- For the text, see #350 in the hymnal

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Galatians 5:13-17, 24-26 Romans 12:1-11

Galatians 5:13-17, 24-26 (New Revised Standard Version)

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Romans 12:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Life Redefined by God’s Accomplishments”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#714 “God of the Fertile Fields”

ITALIAN HYMN

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

ENVIADO

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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

Please turn off all cell phones

Liturgist – Winnie Quinzi 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 Jennie Curry Bible Study.

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-Mensah – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Winnie Quinzi – E Chibuzo Chilaka – W Rev. Norm Story – S

Please remember in your prayers: Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Rev. Jay Bishop; The Grant family; Mary Olberg; Wayne and Marianne Maley; Dorris Hamilton; Clyde Treat, and Norma Klein at the Heritage; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Salt & Light Ministry; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons' Ministries; Gospel Rescue Mission and their re-store staff; "El Caldito" soup kitchen; 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

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.



8/27 – Janet Loman, Harry Topley

8/31 – Roger Sellers

9/01 – Corina Armendariz

9/02 – Ebenezer Tumban

9/03 – Kate Puckett, Richard Myers

(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.

- 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 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.

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, August 27, 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.

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, August 28, 2023

6:00 PM Salt & Light parent meeting in Watkins Hall

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

2:00 PM Storytellers in Jones Hall fellowship area

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

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

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

12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

Thursday, August 31, 2023

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

Friday, September 1, 2023

Saturday, September 2, 2023

Sunday, September 3, 2023 Communion Sunday

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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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES
COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT
DINNER NIGHT MINISTRY

Join us for a home-cooked meal
in the home of Steve and Janet Loman

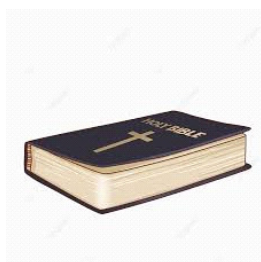
on

Friday, September 8, at 6:00PM

1622 West Union Avenue, 88005

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

If you need a ride or are bringing a friend, please let Janet know: 575.202.4379



COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Monday evenings @ 7:00PM beginning September 11

on Zoom

Please call Janet (575.202.4379) or

E-mail drjml@me.com for the link

(NO PREPARATION REQUIRED)

WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!



The Youth will be having a yard sale September 29th & 30th 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!

Instant Church Directory

In addition to our always-available paper directory, we now have our church directory available online and in a phone app, "Instant Church Directory."

The website (instantchurchdirectory.com) can be found on the church website homepage and the app can be found on both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store for free. Once accessed, please sign in using your email as listed in the directory. Note that this service is accessible to those listed in the directory, but locked from prying eyes outside the church. Also note that it allows you to upload a picture of yourself, and that the application serves as a great contact list for getting in touch with your church family. Reach out to Nick at nkoontz@fpc.lc with any questions or technical difficulties.



**Salt & Light's fall kick-off is at 4 p.m. on
Wednesday, September 6th.**

Both newcomers and returning, youth and children are encouraged to attend! Parents play a huge role in this program too. You can sign up online or in person, and plan to attend our **parents' meeting on Monday, August 28th at 6 p.m.**

**HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP** Ways to Help – Fellowship

We all enjoy fellowship time after church on Sunday, a time to mingle with friends and meet new ones. The Congregational Life and Outreach Support team is looking for people willing to host the following dates:

- September 17 and 24
- October 22 and 29
- November 5, 12, and 26
- December 10, 24, and 31

Families, friends, and Session committees are all wonderful hosts,
and the sign-up chart is in Jones Hall.

There is a page of instructions in the kitchen area to help with set-up.
Thank you for helping out with this important and fun part of our church life.