



21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
 Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism  
 October 22, 2023 - 10:30 A.M  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	“In Heavenly Love Abiding” “Little Children Who Love Their Redeemer”	David H. Hegarty (b. 1945) Lani Smith (1934-2015)
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(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**

<b>MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP</b>
We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <span style="float: right;">(Romans 17:7-9 NRSV)</span>

**CHORAL INTROIT** #35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” Lobe Den Herren

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	(Psalm 8)	Lon Anderson
Leader:	O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.	
People:	<b>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?</b>	
Leader:	Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.	
People:	<b>O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!</b>	

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** #32 “ I Sing the Mighty Power of God” Ellacombe

**\*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** #430 "Remember Not, O God" South well  
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** (from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader:	Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.
People:	<b>"All " " "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us a ministry of reconciliation." Let us live new lives of Christian unity, faith, obed faith, obedience, joy, and peace!</b>
Leader:	Now cleansed from sin, how would God have us live?
People:	<b>The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.</b>

*(Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front)*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Sara Adelaide West (Born January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023)  
Daughter of Jonathan and Rebekah West

**CALL TO PRAYER**

#480 "Take Me To the Water"

Take Me To the Water

**PASTORAL PRAYER****ANTHEM**

"I Believe in God the Father"  
For text see #481 in hymnal

Genevan

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD****SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Genesis 1:26-2:3 &amp; Matthew 22:15-22

Dr. Janet Loman

Genesis 1:26-2:3 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Matthew 22:15-22 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Created to Serve As God's Coins"

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN

#697 "Take My Life"

Hendon

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**    “Peace of God Be With You                      As-Salaamu Lakum

**\*POSTLUDE**                      Hymn Tune Improvisation                      Howard A. Smolleck



You are invited to join us for fellowship and refreshments immediately following the worship service in the Jones Hall fellowship area. New friends and old friends alike are welcome. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Music and Worship Ministry team.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES**

<b>Our Vision:</b> A place where Christian love is modeled.			CCLI License No. 540727
<b>Our Mission:</b> To be a place where Christian love is modeled through:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding, celebrating, and sharing God’s Word.</li> <li>• Following obediently where God is leading us.</li> <li>• Leading, nurturing, and serving our community for Christ.</li> </ul>			
Liturgist:	Lon Anderson	Greeting Before Worship:	E: Diana Howard
Deacon Captain:	Patricia Adu - Mensah		W: Sandy Abernathy S: Nancy Tasker Johnson
Sound System:	Max Schroeder	Greeting After Worship:	E: Lon Anderson
Video:	Dina Schroeder		W: Rev. Nick Koontz S: Rev. Norm Story

### COVID-19 Precautions:

- The East section of the sanctuary is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance.
- Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located at each door.
- A purple box for depositing your offering is located in each aisle.



More information can be found on our website:  
**fpc.lc**



**Tithes, gifts, and offerings** can be given in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at [FPC.LC/giving](http://FPC.LC/giving) or via the QR code to the right.
4. Using the app, "Church Center."
5. Text 84321

### Birthdays/Cumpleanos

10/21 Karina Paita-Cordova  
10/25 Nana Akua Sikapa Adu-Gyamfi  
10/26 William Kersting

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Rev. Dave Schreuder is in the hospital recovering and discerning next steps. - Jeanette Smith
- Prayers for Catie's uncles, Marvin and Alan. Both are facing serious health issues.
- Prayers for Mel Parish, who fell and broke his femur going into his hip. He is recovering at the rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico.
- Praises that Gene Harbaugh found that the spot on kidney is not cancer.
- Prayers for Jean Rhodes and her family. Jean's church family in Las Cruces means so much to Jean, and her family wanted to make sure that we all had Jean's new mailing address.

Jean Rhodes  
P.O Box 27168  
San Diego, CA 92198

*For prayer requests, call the church office, leave a written request in the purple boxes, or email [newsletter@fpc.lc](mailto:newsletter@fpc.lc) to get your request on the Church-wide prayer chain.*

### IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

**In-Betweeners** – On Friday evening, October 27th, we'll gather in Watkins Fellowship Hall for dinner

at 6PM. After dinner, we will have a speaker from City of Las Cruces Senior Programs to tell us about the amazing selection of activities available for us to enjoy. Dinner will be catered this time (\$10/person.) Please let us know by Monday, Oct. 23rd that you plan to come; contact the Ames at [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com) or 575-526-3247. See you there!

**“Anticipate the Light.”** – We are beginning to collect Advent devotionals for this year’s booklet, “Anticipate the Light.” Please send your submissions to [nkoontz@fpc.lc](mailto:nkoontz@fpc.lc). Thank you!

**Salt & Light – “BOO-Lievers Shine the Light Of Jesus”** Wednesday October 25, 2023 4:00 – 7:00 PM Grades K -12<sup>th</sup> 6:10 PM – Salt &Light Dinner. Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread and salad with Halloween themed cupcakes for dessert

**We need your 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: October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office at 575-526-5559 or email: [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc) visit [fpc.lc/calendar](http://fpc.lc/calendar) for more information on any events.  
Office Hours 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM Monday - Friday



### **Sunday, October 22, 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"
- 9 – 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 together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

### **Monday, October 23, 2023**

- 7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

### **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

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

### **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during meeting
- 12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### **Thursday, October 26, 2023**

### **Friday, October 27, 2023**

- 6:00 PM InBetweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

### **Saturday, October 28, 2023**

### **Sunday, October 29, 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"
- 9 – 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 together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story





## Trunk or Treat Is Coming!

**Tuesday, October 31**

What is It? Trunk or Treat is an important congregational outreach to our community, sponsored by the Congregational Life and Outreach ministry team. It is a great chance to serve our neighborhood. The essence of Trunk or Treat is serving kids candy from the trunks of our cars in a safe, fun environment. But there is much more, including music, food, crafts, and games. It's on Tuesday, Oct 31, from 6 to 8 pm, with setup beginning one to two hours prior. We need your help! **This event is totally dependent on our congregation to be successful.**

Further information: Contact Lon Anderson, 575-649-4108 or [lonandenise@q.com](mailto:lonandenise@q.com)

Want to help? Please complete the form below and drop it in the offering box.

*tear here*

*tear here*

*tear here*

*tear here*

Yes! I want to participate in one or more of the following ways:

	<i>Give out candy from my car trunk with optional car decoration</i>
	<i>Run a booth for a pre-planned game (ducks, bowling, bean bags, etc.)</i>
	<i>Devise and run my own game booth</i>
	<i>Kitchen duty and serving food (hot cocoa, hotdogs, popcorn, etc.)</i>
	<i>Donate extra candy (individually wrapped)</i>
	<i>Table setup (planning to set up 4 pm on the 31<sup>st</sup>)</i>
	<i>Take-down</i>
	<i>Clean up kitchen</i>
	<i>Lighting, power strips, extension cords</i>
	<i>Other (fill in the blank):</i>

**Please fill out the information below:**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ My phone is \_\_\_\_\_

My email is \_\_\_\_\_