

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Reformation Sunday
Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism
October 29, 2023 – 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg to raise questions about the teaching of the church in his time and look to the Bible for the answers. He didn't know it, but it was the beginning of a revolution—one that John Calvin and John Knox continued, and many others followed. The Bible proclaims salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ alone to the Glory of God. These are the five main points of the Reformation, or the Five Solas:

Sola Gratia (Grace Alone): God is motivated to save us by His own love and grace, not by our merits. His heart is for us and His unconditional love is what causes Him to extend to us the free gift of salvation.

Solus Christus (Christ Alone): Jesus is the only mediator between God and humankind. We need no priesthood to connect us with God, only Jesus and His own Spirit in us.

Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone): How do we know what is true, especially about the character of God and our relationship with Him? The inspired Word of God reveals it. The Word has authority to correct tradition, churches, church councils and all leaders.

Sola Fide (Faith Alone): We are saved by faith, not by works. Our salvation depends on our faith in Christ and what He has done, not on anything we do. Our only work is to believe.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God's Glory Alone): We live into the great affirmation of the Westminster Catechism, "the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." All we do as followers of Jesus—and as His church—is to bring glory to God alone.

PRELUDE

“All Glory Be to God on High”

Carl Adolf Lorenz (1837-1923)

“Give Praise to the Lord”

Rosaline Bonighton (1946-2011)

Allegro from Concerto Grosso

Arr. Ronald C. Dishinger

Jacob Dalager, Trumpet, Paul McLaughlin, Trumpet,
Alan Kaplan, Trombone, Scott McLaughlin, Trombone

****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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship

Bill Akins

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. They are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

(Romans 3:20, 24, 28 NRSV)

INTROIT

Built on the Rock

Gordon Young

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vicki Kuyper

(Psalm 46)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: God's love surrounds us every day; our God is merciful and gracious.

Leader: Blessed are all who stand in awe before God; blessed are all who walk in his ways.

People: The love of God has chosen us; the love of God unites us with all his people. We joyfully worship our God, who is our hope, our comfort, and our refuge.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein’ Feste Burg

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

O Lord our God, together we are your people who have come in need today. We worship not because we are good, holy, and faithful, but because you are merciful and loving. By your Holy Spirit, allow us in this time of worship to catch a glimpse of your glory and greatness. Today may our hearts soar in the sure knowledge of your gracious love for us. We are grateful that you do care about our lives and concerns. Help us, we pray, to be a people of diligent faith and service. May this church, this community of grace, be more and more faithful and useful in fulfilling our mission to our world and community. We ask through Christ Jesus our Lord, 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 Lord Jesus, Think on Me Southwell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God and Father most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And as thou dost blot out our sins and stains, magnify and increase in us day by day the grace of thy Holy Spirit: that as we acknowledge our unrighteousness with all our heart, we may be moved by that sorrow which shall bring forth true repentance in us, mortifying all our sins and producing in us the fruits of righteousness and innocence which are pleasing unto thee.¹

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,² the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.³

¹ prayer by John Calvin, 1542

² The Nicene Creed

³ The Apostles' Creed, 2.3.

People: We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.⁴

Leader: We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.⁵

People: 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.⁶

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Arr. Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir, Congregation and Brass Quartet

1. Chancel Choir

2. When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood sustain me in the raging flood.
When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found.
Clothed in His righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jordan Clemons

⁴ The Scots Confession, 3.01.

⁵ The Larger Catechism, 7.117.

⁶ A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.5, 11.6.

Daughter of Roy and Nancy Clemons

CALL TO PRAYER O Lord, Hear My Prayer Hear My Prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM The Church's One Foundation Arr. Jerry Brubaker

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Zephaniah 3:14-19 Titus 2:11-14, 3:3-7

Zephaniah 3:14-19 (New Revised Standard Version)

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

Titus 2:11-14, 3:3-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. 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. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Because God's Grace Is Real" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #463 How Firm a Foundation Foundation

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION Built on the Rock Gordon Young

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Vicki Kuyper Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh
Sound System – Max Schroeder Video – Dina Schroeder*

Greeting before Worship Service:

Diana Howard – E Sandy Abernathy – W Nancy Tasker Johnson - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Debra Smith – W Vicki Kuyper – S

CCLI License No. 540727

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
Dr. Paul Deason, Commissioned Pastor		Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsor

There will be a Congregational Meeting on November 5, following Worship to elect church officers and next year's Nominating Committee.

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

- “Thank you to my church family for your amazing kindness and compassion given to my mom Bernie's family.” - Lon Anderson
- Thankfulness for our covenantal community and for God’s grace in the midst of Sara’s and others’ baptisms.
- Prayers for Jacob Hall, Ada Castle’s grandson
- “Prayers for healing for my friend Kathy who was admitted into the hospital yesterday (10/18/23).” - Linda V Ramirez
- Prayers for safe travels and continued growth for Derek Wynn, please also pray for his father.
- Rev. Dave Schreuder is continuing to improve by God’s grace. -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 covering at the rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico. Prayers for Pat and Larry Felhauer as they sell their house in Colorado. Their new address is...

8076 Willow Broom Circle Las Cruces, NM 88007

Continued Prayer List:

Roger Jones, Jessica Stout, June Briggs, Dinus Griggs, Holly Dalager, Wayne & Marianne Maley, Rev. Jay Bishop, John & Melanie Grant, Linda Seaton’s father, Clyde Treat, Jean Rhodes, Shannon, daughter of Bill & Virginia Haynes, Rev. Marcus Burr, Rev. Dave Schreuder, Dale Cook & First Presbyterian Church of Deming, Mary Olberg, Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, Jeanine Krenzer

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

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

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.

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.

Office Hours are: Monday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY – FELIZ COMPLEANOS

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

10/30 – Holly Dalager
10/30 – Bruce Pearson

11/01 – Iain Christopher Deason

Donations to support your church can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.



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

Tithes, gifts, and offerings can be done 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 or via the QR code to the right.
4. Using the app, “Church Center.”
5. Text 84321



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 THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Salt & Light “Fall into God’s Word” Wednesday November 1, 2023

4-7 PM Grades K-12th 6:10 PM Dinner Menu: Green Chile Enchiladas, Rice and Brownies for dessert.

We need you 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: November 5th, 12th and 16th, December 24th and 31st. 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.



Need a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings?

- Our church offers free rides to and from the Worship service
- We will pick you up and drop you off at your doorstep
- Church vans are designed for easy access
Please call Linda Ward at 619-417-6912

Stewardship

Does our church make a difference in Las Cruces? Absolutely! Pledging helps our governing body, the Session, plan our programs for the year ahead. Please give serious thought to increasing the financial resources you will offer to God through our church in the coming year. Is your giving to the church the right proportion of all you're spending? Please prayerfully consider your pledge, fill out a pledge card, and bring it to church on Stewardship Sunday, November 12th, 2023.

Thanksgiving In-Gathering

In anticipation of the holiday of Thanksgiving, during the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 19th, you are invited to participate in our special Thanksgiving offering of can goods. During the final hymn you will be invited to bring forward offerings of non-perishable canned or boxed food items to benefit the ongoing mission of the Casa de Peregrinos. Through this offering we continue to share the bountiful gifts of God with those in need in our community.

Jennie Curry Bible Study

Jennie Curry Bible Study will begin a study of Beth Moore's *Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John* on November 2nd in Jones Hall.



John was there when Jesus turned the water to wine, offered living Water to the woman at the well, yielded to His Father's will in the garden of Gethsemane, and gave His life on a Roman cross. And one unforgettable morning young John outran Peter to his Savior's empty tomb.

Every disciple and early follower of Christ left a legacy for future believers. John's legacy was love. Join our study as we find our way to the heart of Jesus. Jennie Curry meets on the first Thursday of the month in Jones Hall at 6:30 p.m.

If you want more information or have any questions, please get in touch with Kathy Story via email at storyk@comcast.net.



El Caldito Soup Kitchen

For more than 20 years, the First Presbyterian Church has supported the soup kitchen known as “El Caldito” by providing volunteers to prepare and serve food. Volunteers are urgently needed. Please prayerfully consider how often you can help then contact either Linda Ward, Lon Anderson, or Diana Howard. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The mission of El Caldito is to provide a healthy meal in a safe and clean environment for any hungry person.

A hot nutritious meal is served daily, Sunday through Friday, to everyone who comes to their dining room for lunch. A take-out sack lunch is offered on Saturdays.

There is no charge to guests and the only qualification to receive food is hunger. All food preparation is done by volunteers, using donated foodstuffs from various sources in the community.

Volunteer information and requirements:

Our church prepares and serves on the second Wednesday of each month from about 8:00AM to 1:00PM. A minimum of 8 volunteers are needed to complete a “crew”. The day’s crew leader will assign duties.

New volunteers are given an on-site orientation to kitchen procedures by experienced workers. There is no formal training program. Volunteers are expected to “sign in and out” to indicate the number of hours worked each day.

Ages under 15: Must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Attire: Kitchen volunteers wear clean clothes and closed-toe shoes. Shoulders and midriff are covered and pants or jeans are worn around the waist. Longer shorts are acceptable.

Hair is covered, using a hairnet, baseball cap, bandana, or other head covering, and long hair is tied back. Hairnet is provided.

An apron is worn in the kitchen, and disposable gloves are worn when handling food. Gloves are changed between tasks. Apron and disposable gloves are provided.

If you haven’t volunteered for a while or would like to volunteer, please let Linda Ward 619-417-6912, Lon Anderson 575-649-4108, or Diana Howard 575-649-4266 know of your interest.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office at 575-526-5559 or email: linda@fpc.lc
visit fpc.lc/calendar for more information on any events.

Office Hours 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM Monday - Friday



Sunday, October 29, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Larry Hicks in the Jones Hall Library, a series entitled, "Dietrich Bonhoeffer"
- 9–11:45AM 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 30, 2023

- 7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on Scripture in Jones Hall Parlor.
Contact Marsha Topley with questions
- 6 – 8 PM Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, November 1, 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, November 2, 2023

- 6:30 PM Bible Study with Jemie Curry

Friday, November 3, 2023

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Sunday, November 5, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Larry Hicks in the Jones Hall Library, a series entitled, "Dietrich Bonhoeffer"
- 9–11:45AM 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