

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Communion Sunday

November 5, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

“Our Father, By Whose Name” (19<sup>th</sup> Century Hymn Tune)

Daniel Burton (b. 1944)

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

“We Gather Together to Ask the Lord’s Blessing”

Robin Rokey (b.1950)

\*\*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

Jasey Loman-Austin

## MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind. The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and his soul hates the lover of violence. For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face. (Psalm 11:4-5, 7 NRSV)

INTROIT

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Linstead

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(Bread of Life from the Gospel of John)

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

People: **Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#503 “Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”

O Quanta Qualia

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

We come Holy God, gathering as your people, thankful for the goodness you do for us. We

praise you, for you alone are worthy of worship, all else that captures our attention pales dimly in the brightness of your glory. Help us, loving and faithful Lord Jesus, to escape the bindings of this world and the selfishness of our hearts, that instead we can come before you unfettered. Release us we pray, from all that would hinder or distract us from hearing your voice and breathing deeply the presence of your Holy Spirit. May we truly commune with you during this time of worship, in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

## PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION      #427 “Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart”      Loe De Isa  
Congregation to sing refrain  
Choral Scholars to sing verses

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, you well know the content of our hearts, the situations of our lives, the circumstances of our relationships, and the truth of how we are living out our lives. No secrets are hidden from you. We know, merciful God, that you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, and see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: Let us declare what we believe using the historic Nicene Creed.

**People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE      #519 “You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”      Jernigan

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”  
Chancel Choir

Maryton

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Christ Is With Us”

Don Besig

### **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Janet Loman

Matthew 23:1-12

Matthew 23:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

With Our Focus on Authenticity

Rev. Norm Story

\*COMMUNION HYMN #498 “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” Beach Spring  
INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays on the west and south sides, plus the choir and the childcare workers. The East will continue with masks and distancing, and will continue to use the pre-packaged Communion kits. There will also be kits available at West and South doors for those wishing to continue with them.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER

**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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION      “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”      Linstead

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

*Liturgist – Dr. Janet Loman      Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh*  
*Sound System – Curtis Benaway      Video – Rusty Smith*

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

*Diana Howard – E      Sharon Rooney– W      Sandy Abernathy – S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Diana Howard– E      Penelope Printz – W      Sandy Abernathy– S*

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 following Worship today, November 5, to elect church officers and next year's Nominating Committee.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

- Prayers for Rachel Breck, continuing to improve, should be home in a few days.
- Prayers for Curtis Benaway's mother and her health.
- Prayers for safe travel and effective participation in a missions conference In Rochester, NY – Joel & Barbara Trudell
- Prayers for Anya Francisco's friend, Thomasa and for her renewal in spirit.
- 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 Rev. Fred Davis who is facing serious medical issues. He has had a series of tests and is awaiting results. – Jacque and Jim Parks

Continued Prayer List:

Roger Jones, Jessica Stout, June Briggs, Dinus Briggs, 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 and 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](mailto:newsletter@fpc.lc) to get your request on the Church-wide prayer chain.



11/05 – David Klement    11/11 – Marjorie Burr

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



**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 CL&OS.

### **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.

### **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.

**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](http://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](http://FPC.LC/giving) or via the QR code to the right.
4. Using the app, "Church Center."



5. Text 84321

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

CCLI License No. 540727

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Salt & Light "Jesus Never Leaves You"** Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 4-7 PM Grades K-12<sup>th</sup> 6:10 PM Dinner; haystacks, sliced apples and mandarin oranges with whipped cream for dessert.

### Mary Martha Circle

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM to socialize with our friends and guests. The Bible study will begin at 10 AM. We will be studying the Book of Nehemiah, chapters 3 and 4. We look forward to seeing you in the hall library.



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 & drop you off at your doorstep.

\*Church vans are designed for easy access\*

Please call Linda Ward @ 619-417-6912



**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: November 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<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.

## 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 12, 2023.

## Thanksgiving In-Gathering



In anticipation of the holiday of Thanksgiving, during the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to participate in our special Thanksgiving offering of canned 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.

### **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, November 5, 2023**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Larry Hicks in the Jones Hall Library, a series entitled "Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Pastor, Theologian and Martyr"
- 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
- 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

#### **Monday, November 6, 2023**

- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal with Beth Thomas
- 7:00 PM Young Adults zoom Bible study with Dr. Janet Loman.

#### **Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

#### **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

- 8AM-1PM Serve with us at El Caidito Soup Kitchen
- 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 9, 2023**

#### **Friday, November 10, 2023**

- 6:00 PM College and Young Adults Dinner

#### **Saturday, November 11, 2023**

Veteran's Day

#### **Sunday, November 12, 2023**

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