



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
1st Sunday of Advent¹ – Communion Sunday
December 3, 2022 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide” (Isaiah 64)(Chorale of 1666) Friedrich Otto Zipp (1914-1997)
“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates” (19th Century tune) Jan Bender (1909-1994)
“Ancient Airs and Dances-Balletto” Ottorino Respighi
“Wachet Auf” J. S. Bach
Vicki Kuyper, Flute; Holly Dalager, Oboe

**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

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. (Lamentations 3:21-26 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“People, Look East”

Besancon

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Paul Deason

(Psalm 130)

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

People: **But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.**

¹ “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

Leader: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord!

People: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Truro

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet reflection and prayer. May we grasp the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Savior's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives more worthy of all you have done for us through the coming of Jesus, your Son. Grant that all who worship you may renew their relationships with you. Help each of us rejoice in your presence and greet the coming of Jesus, with gladness, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Divinm Myterium
Josh Prichard, Solo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, by your mercy forgive us. In this season of anticipation, the voices of advertisers and culture compete for our attention, drowning out your voice. We busy ourselves with tasks we think we’re supposed to do and neglect those things we truly ought to do. Renew our spirits. Fill our hearts with joy and song so others see in us the grace and mercy you have given us through your Son. Instill in us a spirit of gratitude. Open our eyes and ears, and prepare our hearts to receive the most precious gift of all.

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!"

People: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation."

Leader: I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

People: Let us live new lives of Christian discipleship, unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!

INVITATION TO ADVENT

Please sing to the tune of “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

*Kindle this flame of peace.
May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God;
the journey we pursue.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dalager Family

Congregational Response

Please sing to the tune of “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

*God’s realm is our desire
Where peace and justice reign.
Heaven and earth combined as one,
when Christ shall come again.*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Arr. Kevin McChesney

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

- Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front, and masks are optional for those who have been vaccinated.

CALL TO PRAYER

“While We Are Waiting, Come”
Chancel Choir

Waiting

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Advent Canticle”
Vicki Kuyper, Flute; Holly Dalager, Oboe

Setting by Mark Shepperd

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Paul Deason

Isaiah 64:1-8

Isaiah 64:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you

in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON As Advent Gradually Unfolds Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN #82 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Hyfrydol

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Wait For the Lord" Wait For the Lord

After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.

*POSTLUDE

Liturgist-Dr. Paul Deason Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah
Sound System-Curtis Benaway Video-Rusty Smith

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Linda Pearson-E Sandy Abernathy-W Dennis Thomas-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Dennis Thomas-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Judith Ames-S

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

Please remember in your Prayers

Prayers for all those traveling, all those visiting loved ones, and all those missing their family during this season. For all of our teachers and students as they work towards their final projects, tests, etc.

Prayers for our Advent Season, that we should use this time to look past all the consumerism and instead see anew the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that are found in Christ.

Prayers for Johnnie Aldrich, as she recovers from surgery; Mick Batton, as he undergoes surgery; Vicki Kuyper's friend Joyce, as she recovers from her accident; Eileen Hood, recovering from broken ribs and for Clyde Treat's family, following his passing

Continued Prayer List:

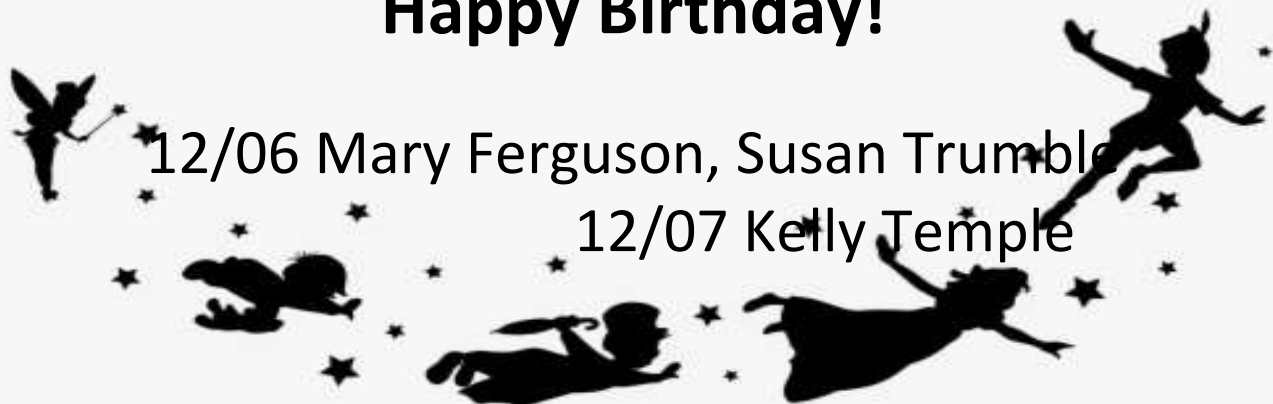
Roger Jones; Jessica Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; June Briggs; Dinus Briggs; Wayne & Marianne Maley; Rev. Jay Bishop; John & Melanie Grant; Linda Seaton's father; Shannon, Daughter of Bill & Virginia Haynes; Rev. Marcus Burr; Mary Olberg; Rev. Dave Schreuder; Dale Cook and First Presbyterian Church of Deming; Mary Olberg; Fred Davis; Esther Smolleck's sister, Jane; Jeanine Krenzer; and Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, Ann Miller all at The Heritage, 854 Lettuce Lane, 88001.

**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.*

Happy Birthday!

12/06 Mary Ferguson, Susan Trumble

12/07 Kelly Temple



Fellowship

*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 Deacons.



oh, hello.

WELCOME

Our Worship services are now available:

- 1) In-person, with Covid19 precautions
- 2) Live-stream on YouTube, First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM
- 3) Video archive on the church website, our Facebook site or YouTube

Covid19 Precautions:

- o Seating in the West and South sections of the Sanctuary is unrestricted. The East section is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance.
- o Hand-sanitizer and wipes are 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.



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



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

More information can be found on our website:

fpc.lc

CCLI License No. 5407



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

In The Life of The Church

Salt & Light

"Jesus is the Heart of Christmas"- Wednesday, December 6th, dinner will be Frito Pie, rolls w/butter and ice cream sundaes



Jennie Curry's Bible Study

Jennie Curry Bible Study will be studying Beth Moore's "Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John." We will be meeting this coming Thursday, December 7th, at 6:30 PM, in Jones Hall. If you would like more information or have any questions, please get in touch with Kathy Story at storyk@comcast.net.



*Our Advent Devotional, Anticipate the Light, is available in print or online via The Good News or by using the QR code to the right.



You can also contact the church office for a copy. You are encouraged to read along with us and to invite others to do the same.



Mary Martha's Circle

Mary Martha Circle's annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, at 11:30 AM, at the *Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road, off Roadrunner Rd.* where we met last year. Please RSVP by Sunday, December 10th, with Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395; Helen Moser, 575.647.3365; in person or by e-mail, helensantafe@hughes.net. Please bring any books you'd like to donate to *The Children's Reading Alliance*, for ages infant to 8 years old. Monetary donations for the *NMSU Aggie Food Pantry* will be also be taken at this time. We look forward to gathering together and celebrating this special season of our Lord's birth.

We're still in need of names!

The Deacons will once again be distributing food baskets. If you know a family or anyone who would like to receive a basket this holiday season please email Linda Ward at lwardps@gmail.com or contact the church office with the name of the family and contact information. We thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.





CHURCH
Calendar
& SERVICE TIMES



Sunday, December 3, 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
11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, December 4, 2023

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

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer

Wednesday, December 6, 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 "*Jesus is the Heart of Christmas*"
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM Salt & Light Parent Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2023

- 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study

Friday, December 8, 2023

- 7:30 PM Los Pastores Del Valle De Mesilla live performance in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 9, 2023

- 9:00 AM Deacon Training in Jones Hall
10:00 AM Elder Training in Jones Hall

Sunday, December 10, 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
11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall

12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story