



Las Cruces, New Mexico
3rd Sunday in Advent
Welcome New Members
December 17, 2023 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing” (12th-century Bohemian carol) Alice Jordan(1916-2012)
“Petite Marche Campetre de Noel” (Rustic March of the Villagers at Christmas) Robert Leech Bedell (1909-1974)
“Lift Up your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Michael Burkhardt (b.1957)

**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 Finance & Administration Steve Loman

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:1-2, 23-24 NRSV)

INTROIT “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” Tempus Adest Floridum

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Gracia Class
(Isaiah 35)

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

People: They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Leader: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

People: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adest Floridum

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

Loving God, as we approach the time of Christ's birth, help us to throw wide the doors of our hearts in preparation. Help us sense the importance of what happened so long ago when Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem. May we remember the words of the angels, and worthily celebrate the promises fulfilled when Jesus was born. Help us make this a season of joy and grace for all those around us. In our worship, help us proclaim your love and your mercy in all our words and movements of praise and adoration. Lord, hear our 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

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

#128 "Infant Holy, Infant lowly"

W Zlobie Jubilo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and harm we have caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have often failed to live out your compassion and light to others. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe. May we be open to new possibilities, a fresh vision of greater understanding and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truth.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God's light is present in this world, present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. We are loved; we are forgiven.

People: God's grace is in the world. Our sins, failures, and missteps cannot overcome it. Truly, we are loved and we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Leader: Just as loving parents still love and spoil their children, even when they don't live up to their full potential, so you, Almighty God, Parent of us all, still love and spoil us out of your limitless grace.

People: So let us live new lives of Christian faith, obedience, joy, and peace that reflect the grace and forgiveness of God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

In Dulci Jubilo

INVITATION TO ADVENT

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

Kindle this flame of Joy.

May it burn bright and true.

Lighting the way that is of God;

the journey we pursue.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Thomas and Stout Families

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.

CELEBRATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

E. Kathleen Gardner, Frank & Elizabeth Varela, Barbara Wolflick,
Joyce Nolan, Amber Nolan, Ategha Clifford

(Elders currently serving on Session will greet our new church family members while the congregation stands to sing hymn

306, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”, vs. 1-3)

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

- 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

#115 “Away in a Manger”

Mueller

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Arr. Harry Simeone

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 40:3-8 John 1:6-9, 19-29

Greeting Before Worship Service:
Cliford Kum Ateгах-E Sandy Abernathy-W Kathleen Gardner-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Erin Taylor-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 all those wrapped up in the brutal conflict in the Holy Land. We pray not for borders or nations, but for each individual who desperately needs God to be present with them as our Emmanuel.
- ❖ Prayers for Vanessa Medina, whose father passed away this past week.
- ❖ Ellen Deason Adamosley, who is having MS issues; The MacDougall-Deason Family, toddlers ill with chickenpox; Carol Davidson Pinuccello, who is having complications from cancer and ankle surgery; and for Simona Chacon’s mother as she recovers from surgery.



Continued Prayer List:

Jessica Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Jeremy Borchert, Rev. Jay Bishop; John & Melanie Grant; Linda Seaton’s father; Shannon, Daughter of Bill & Virginia Haynes; Rev. Marcus Burr; Mary Olberg; Rev. Dave Schreoder; Jeanine Krenzer; and Norma Klein, Ann Miller all at The Heritage.

Merry Birthday!

12/18 Faith Chilaka

12/19 Marquez Sanchez & Richard Pond

12/21 Donalee Bartholomew

12/22 Sandy Abernathy & Andrea Regmi

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 CLOS.



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

Covid 19 Precautions:



- 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. 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. 540727

New Church office hours! Monday-Friday 9AM-2PM

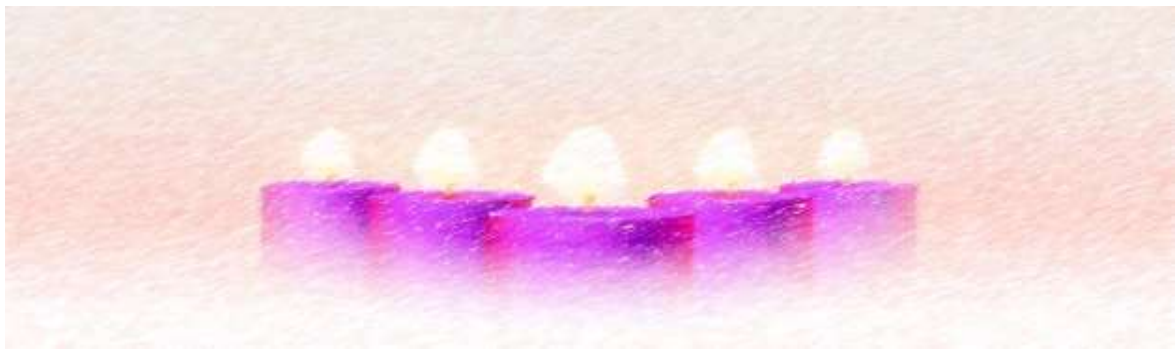


In The Life Of The Church



Christian Education

There will be Sunday School on Sunday, December 24th.
Childcare will be provided for the morning service only.



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.



Help us show of our wonderful Congregation! If you have photos or videos you'd like to share, social media is a great place to let the community know about the great things happening here at First Presbyterian Church. Please like us and share your experiences with us on your pages!





Sunday, December 17, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Rev. Nick Koontz in the Jones Hall Library, a series by Soren Kierkegaard
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

Monday, December 18, 2023

- 3:30 PM Storytellers in Jones Hall
7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer, Jones Hall Parlor
7:00 PM Session

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during meeting
12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21, 2023

- 6:30 PM Deacons

Friday, December 22, 2023

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Sunday, December 24, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Rev. Nick Koontz in the Jones Hall Library, a series by Soren Kierkegaard
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
4:00 PM Family Oriented Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary
7:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary