



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 31, 2023 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Lo, How A Rose”

John Leavitt (b. 1956)

“Heralds of the Newborn King”

Reginald S. (Rex) Koury (1911-2006)

“Procession of the Magi”

Cyrus S. Mallard (1888-1972)

**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

This is how we know we’re living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He’s given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we’ve seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Savior of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God’s Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God. We know it so well, we’ve embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

Eugene Peterson in *The Message*

INTROIT

“That Boy-Child of Mary”

Blantyre

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Debra Smith

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

People: **Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

People: **Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

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

Holy Lord, the heavens declare your glory, the earth shows forth your abundant riches, and humanity celebrates your creative diversity. The universe is your temple, and we, your people, are your dwelling place. You have made us what we are and have given all we have, and in you we have our purpose and being. Through our worship, may our praise be authentic and pleasing, may we be rooted in your word and Spirit, and our thoughts re-set on following your will and drawing nearer to your truth. May we live out our days in joyful and faithful fellowship with you. Now praying as Jesus 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

#347 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Picardy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Lord, we want to praise you,
but our voices are drowned out by distractions,
and our mouths are full of selfish demands.

O Lord, we want to praise you,
but we waste our words with bitter thoughts,
and in our hearts there is no harmony.

O Lord, we want to praise you,
but we prefer the safety of silence.

Forgive us, we pray.
O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths will declare your praise.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

In Dulci Jubilo

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dr. Chibuzo Chilaka

- 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

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”
Chancel Choir

Children Praying

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

Courtney

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 61:10,11; 62:1-3; Luke 2:25-32; Galatians 4:4-7

Isaiah 61:10,11; 62:1-3 (New Revised Standard Version)

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Luke 2:25-32 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Galatians 4:4-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Clothed with Christ”

Dr. Janet Loman

*CLOSING HYMN

#109 “Blest Be the God of Israel”

Merle’s Tune

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Debra Smith Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh

Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Linda Pearson-E Diana Howard-W Dennis Thomas-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Dr. Chibuzo Chilaka-E Dr. Janet Loman-W Rev. Nick Koontz-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 the upcoming New Year, that everyone enters the new year with good health and blessings.
- Prayers for Marty Pope who is dealing with Parkinson's.
- Prayers for America Carson as she deals with her cancer.
- Prayers for Samantha Belletete's former grandfather-in-law's family, John Binkinz, who passed away on Saturday.

- Prayers for Sherry Lindsey as she battles cancer.
- Prayers for all the travelers this holiday season, including the Deason family's son and girlfriend, Iain and Emily.
- Prayers for Arnold McMillan, who is having some health concerns.
- Please be in prayer for Sharon Rooney and her family in the passing of her husband.
- Please be in prayer for the family of Clyde Treat. His memorial service will be here in the sanctuary at 10 AM on Saturday, January 13th.
- Please be in prayer for Brynleigh Claire Brass and her parents as she recovers from illness.
- Prayers for Ken Osborne, who is having multiple skin cancer treatments and one special surgery over the next month.
- Please be in prayer for Lon Anderson as he recovers from illness.



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 Schreuder; Cindy Medina; Eileen Hood; Vanessa Medina; Mel Parish; Jeanine Krenzer; and Doris Hamilton, Norma Klein, Ann Miller all at The Heritage



1/01 – Stephanie Benaway 1/02 – Esther Smolleck 1/04 – Jacqui

Jones

Cecilia Mboh

Brad Class

1/05 – Helen Moser

1/06 – Julie Marineau



Nancy Cowan

Larry Hicks

Ariana Holguin



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 Carl & Bea Connor, who are celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary. Happy Anniversary!!

Welcome

Our Worship services are now available:

- **In-person, with Covid19 precautions**
- **Live-stream on YouTube, First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM**
- **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.

- Cash or check in the purple offering box.
- Check sent by mail.



- Online at fpc.lc/giving or via the QR code to the bottom right.
- Using the app “Church Center”.
- Text 84321

More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

CCLI License No. 540727

Weekly and/or monthly giving envelopes are now available in the Parlor located in Jones Hall.

New Church office hours! Monday-Friday 9AM-2PM, Phone 575.526.5559 *Office will be closed Monday, January 1st.*



In the Life of the Church

Mary Martha Circle

Happy New Year! The Mary Martha Circle Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 9th, at 9:30AM in the Jones Hall Library. Gracia Class will lead our new Bible study about the Apostle Paul, who wrote Colossians. All the women of our church are invited to join us, especially our new members.

Jennie Curry 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, January 4th, at 6:30 PM in Jones Hall. If you

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



Sunday, December 31, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Rev. Koontz, New Year's Resolutions
- 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, January 1, 2024

Happy New Year!
Office Closed

H A P P Y
new year

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

3:00 PM Listening Prayer

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 4, 2023

6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Hall

Friday, January 5, 2023

Saturday, January 6, 2023

Sunday, January 7, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School

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