



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Baptism of the Lord

Communion Sunday

January 7, 2024 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” (Incorporating Bach’s Prelude in B Flat)

Lyndell Leatherman (b. 1953)

“Communion”

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord”

James Mansfield (1927-2018)

**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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” (Mark 9:2-3 & 7 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Take Me to the Water”

Take Me to the Water

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(Psalm 34)

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

People: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed are those who take refuge in him.

People: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#475 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Nettleton

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

God, our guide and our protector, we gather today in need of your sanctuary and peace. Please open our minds, our souls and hearts, that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction of your Spirit in our lives. Christ Jesus, our shepherd-king, in your presence all our deepest needs are met when your gracious love, your peace and joy come into our lives. As into our hearts your mercy overflows, help us, we pray, to follow in faith as you lead us. Through our worship, fellowship, and obedient service, restore and renew our relationship with you and all others, by your love and power to reconcile all things. In the name of Jesus, amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

“Search Me, O God”
Diana Gutierrez, Solo

Kam-Chhat

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of majesty, you have given us your words of eternal life. Forgive us for taking too lightly this gift: for hearing your Word, but not obeying your will; for treating your Word as just one among many; for choosing that which pleases us and ignoring that which challenges us; for allowing the noise of our busy lives to distract us from your loving voice; for keeping silent instead of shouting aloud the truth of your rule and the wonder of your love. For these and all our sins against your will, forgive us, O God, we pray. From your boundless grace, grant us the power to live new lives, lived according to your will and purpose. May we be more responsive to your living Word in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. And Christ rose for us and takes away all our sin. I therefore declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.

People: In Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven; thanks be to God, amen.

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

People: We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#482 “Baptized in Water”

Bunessan

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

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

¹ from The Scots Confession of 1560

CALL TO PRAYER "Feed Us, Lord" Feed Us
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "I Ponder" Craig Courtney
Leah Mathe, Solo

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1:1, 4-11 Dr. Janet Loman

Mark 1:1, 4-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "A New and Better Direction" 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 the kits.

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 "Spirit of the Living God" Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

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

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Dr. Janet Loman Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah
Sound System-Curtis Benaway Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:
Kileigh Higginbotham-E Donna Phillips-W Eric Montgomery-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Karen Morehart-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:

- Jim Tomlinson, Caitie Hurley, Francis Nolan and Arnold McMillan, all facing health concerns.
- Barry Albert who is recovering from injury.
- David Bridges as he plans to move to a new apartment.
- Sherry Lindsey, friend of Amber Nolan, who is battling cancer.

- Marty Pope as he continues dealing with his Parkinson's.
- America Carson as she continues her battle with cancer.
- Sharon Rooney and her family in the passing of her husband Noel.
- The family of Clyde Treat, a memorial service will be in the Sanctuary on January 13th, at 10AM.
- Ken Osborne, who is having multiple skin cancer treatments and one special surgery over the next month.
- A.B. Conrad as he recovers from an illness at home.

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 Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, Ann Miller all at The Heritage

1/8 – Michael Deason

1/12 – Dylan Anderson

1/13 – Rebecca Smith

Happy Birthday

1/13 – Aline Pangoup

1/14 – Naomi Loya

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:

Welcome

- 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.

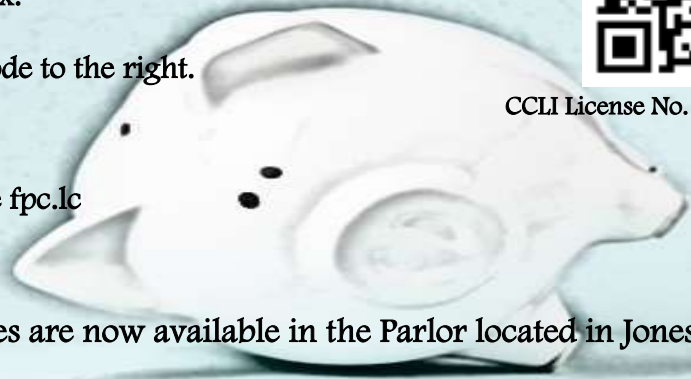
*Contributions to support your church can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

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



CCLI License No. 540727

More information can be found on our website fpc.lc



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

Per Capita Apportionment

Every Presbyterian (USA) congregation is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount to be paid by our congregation for the year 2024 is \$29.93 per member. Members may choose to contribute this amount, if they wish, thus freeing church funds for our ministries.

Congregational and Corporate Meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2024

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting and Corporate Meeting after Worship in the Sanctuary on January 14th, primarily for the purpose of approving Dr. Rev. Norm Story's call and receiving an additional report from the nominating committee.

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 Mary Martha Circle.



THANK
YOU
GOD!

Salt & light

Salt and Light will resume on Wednesday, January 10th! We will be studying why Faithful People Thank God for Jesus. Dinner will be chicken tetrazzini, garlic bread and pudding for dessert. This will also be the first Salt and Light implementing our new schedule. PreK-8th grade (same as last semester) 4-7PM, and high school 5:30-8PM. Also, look forward to our new family discussion take-home sheets!



Lutheran Family Services

First Presbyterian Church is partnering with Lutheran Family Services in mentoring refugees.

Folks new to the U.S. need help understanding our culture and navigating their way through experiences that may seem commonplace to us, but are new to them. If you are interested in assisting with the families that are new to this country, please sign up. The sign-up sheet is located in Jones Hall Library.

Let's Team Up & Build Together!

We're building beds for kids who are in need of one. The need for wood bed frames and mattresses has been discerned by CLOS, and we are planning our course of action in implementing this form of outreach. If you are interested in building bedframes and/or delivering a bed to a child sleeping on the floor, please sign up in Jones Hall.



Mary Martha Circle

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.

***Fellowship needs your help!**

We're still in need of volunteers for January 28th, and February 4th to host the After Worship Fellowship. You can find the sign-up board in Jones Hall.





Church office hours! Monday~Friday 9AM~2PM, Phone 575.526.5559

Sunday, January 7, 2024

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Rev. Koontz
- 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, January 8, 2024

- 5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 7:00 PM Ministry Teams meet

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

- 8:00 AM Soup Kitchen
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during meeting)
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light, "*Faithful People Thank God for Jesus*" (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 11, 2023

Friday, January 12, 2023

Saturday, January 13, 2023

- 10:00 AM Memorial Service for Clyde Treat, with reception to follow

Sunday, January 14, 2023

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Rev. Nick Koontz
- 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
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