



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

January 28, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

Variations on “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

“Trumpet Tune in F”

“Water Music”

Vicki Kuyper, Flute; Bill Kuyper, Horn

Don Freudenburg (1939-2007)

Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)

Gary Schocker

**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

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. *John 13:34-35 NRSV*

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Be Joyful”

John Yarrington

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Judith Ames

(1 Corinthians 13)

Leader: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

People: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Leader: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

People: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

St. Denio

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

Gracious Lord Jesus, we thank you for this time of worship; help us to open our hearts to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide, and when needed, a word of challenge and confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our church, that we would welcome the stranger, the wounded, the suffering, the immigrant, and the outcast. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to blossom and grow in your embracing love. May we in our worship truly celebrate your blessings and gifts; for these we thank you in the name of Jesus, who taught us 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

#69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Here I Am

Congregation and Choir, refrain only

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Gracious Lord, help us to unmask, and bring before you the truth of our lives as honestly as we can. O Lord, may we not waste the opportunity of this precious time before you with lies, disguises, hypocrisies, or self-deceptions that hinder our chance to be healed. O Lord, bring to our minds the times when we have sinned and failed to follow you, so that we may confess and get out from under the burden of our fear and guilt. May we be transformed from our wayward ways by your loving mercy. Today, may we be restored, encouraged, and equipped to live out our faith anew into this world so much in need.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Having confessed our sin before God, who loves us and who saves us, let us walk anew. God calls us with a holy calling, not because of our good works, but

because of God's own gracious love through Christ Jesus. Friends, believe the Good News, all our sins are forgiven.

People: By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through the redeeming sacrifice of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: What do you mean when you speak of "the forgiveness of sins"?^[2]

People: Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #468 "In My Life" Lord, Be Glorified

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Nick Koontz

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Alleluia No. 1
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Gentle Voice" Lee Dengler
Vicki Kuyper, Flute

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS *1 Corinthians 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:23-31* Dr. Janet Loman

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 New Revised Standard Version

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

^[2] Question #62, The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version, Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

1 Corinthians 10:23-31 *New Revised Standard Version*

“All things are lawful,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience, for “the earth and its fullness are the Lord’s.” If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—I mean the other’s conscience, not your own. For why should my liberty be subject to the judgment of someone else’s conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why should I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	“So What Really Matters?”	Rev. Norm Story
*CLOSING HYMN	#634 “To God Be the Glory”	To God Be the Glory

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“To God Be the Glory”	To God Be the Glory
*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Judith Ames Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:
Bob Distlehorst-E Donna Philips-W Clifford Atteghah-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Rev. Nick Koontz-E Rev. Norm Story-W Judith Ames-S*

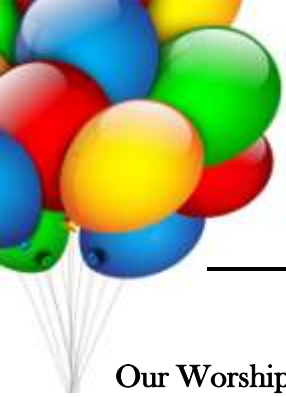
Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor	Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor	Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music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

Please remember in your Prayers

- Praises for continued health. We recognize that God is the Giver of Life and every day is a blessing. And for all those who made it through travels, trips, and trials this winter. God walks with us!
- Prayers for Bill Kuyper's son and family as they prepare to move back to New Mexico
- Rich Lally and Dan T, as they are both awaiting test results.
- For Dee Brown; Bill and Virginia Haynes as they are all facing some health concerns.
- Gregg L. as he undergoes shoulder surgery.

Continued Prayer List:

Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Rev. Jay Bishop; Rev. Marcus Burr; Jerry and Rayma Claessen, both at Haciendas of Grace Village, Rayma is in hospice; Jeanine Krenzer; Jim Tomlinson; Barry Albert; Francis Nolan; Marty Pope; Arnold McMillan; Ken Osborne; and Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller, all at The Heritage.



1/29 - *Lon Anderson* 1/30 - *Beth Thomas*



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.
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*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

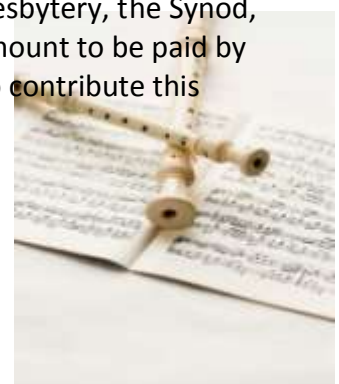
More information can be found on our website fpc.lc



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.

Fellowship



Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends. Fellowship this morning is hosted by Music and Worship .



In the life of the Church

-Salt & Light-

Wednesday, January 31st, *Jesus Surprises Nathanael, Jesus knows all about us.*
Pizza Night! Ice cream bar for dessert with the choice of crushed Oreos, gummy bears, pineapple, chocolate syrup, and whipped cream.

Fellowship needs your help! We are still in need of help for the following dates, February 4th and February 25th. If you're able to help please sign upon the board in Jones Hall.



Our youth group will be selling sub sandwiches on Sunday, February 11th, for the Super Bowl. Proceeds will go to the youth mission trip to the Navajo Nation. Subs will be \$15, and orders can be placed on the green insert located in your Bulletin



Building Together!

Time is flying by! The CLOS bed building project happening on February 3rd is fastly approaching. If you are interested in assisting with building bedframes and/or delivering a bed to a child in need of one, please sign up on the sign-up sheet located in Jones Hall. Please contact Rev. Koontz for more information.

Searching for Something? Maybe it's in our Lost & Found. We have an abundance of items that have been found around our campus. Stop by the Church office and see if we have what you've been looking for.

Church office hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-2PM, Phone 575.526.5559



Sunday, January 28th

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
12:30 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, January 29th

7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 30th

3:00 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Wednesday, January 31st

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, "*Jesus Surprises Nathanael*" (see announcement)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 1st

Friday, February 2nd

9:00 AM CLOS Bed Building Prototype

Saturday, February 3rd

12:00 PM CLOS Bed Build

Sunday, February 4th

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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