



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**Transfiguration of the Lord**  
**February 11, 2024 - 10:30 A.M**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

**PRELUDE**

“When Christ’s Appearing Was Made Known”  
(incorporating 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century hymn tunes)  
“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”  
“The Transfiguration”

Mark Sedio (b. 1954)

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

\*\*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**

Lenten Booklet

Rev. Nick Koontz

**MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations. (Isaiah 42:5-6 NRSV)

**CHORAL INTROIT**

“We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

Holy Ground

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**  
(from Philippians 2)

Bill Akins

**Leader:** Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

**People:** **who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

Leader: And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

**People: so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #193 "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain" Unser Herscher

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

O God, because of your gracious love in Jesus Christ, we joyously and gratefully come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are already here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are already there. We do need our eyes of faith opened, that we may see you; our ears unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be made sensitive, that we may recognize and know you. And we need our hearts to be made tender, that we may receive you and live in you. Gracious God, draw us into your life-changing presence through our worship this day, we 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 #422 "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Create In Me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, for this day and all the blessings it contains, we thank you and praise you. We live surrounded by your grace and mercy, and yet at times we live as if it were not so. Help us reset our priorities upon the eternal, and live lives that reflect your compassion and forbearance. We hear of your salvation and grace, yet sin is still close and real, and daily we are enticed and drawn away from you and your gracious ways. Have mercy upon us, and enter our hearts with healing transformation. Forgive the wrong of what we have done, what we have said, and who we have been.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the truth. Neither this world nor our lives are so broken that God cannot restore to wholeness. Trust and believe that reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

**People: We rejoice in the Good News that through Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.**

Leader: And so what do we believe about the Good News?

**People: This is the Good News which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, that he was**

**buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared to the women at the tomb, to Peter, then to the Twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord, our Savior, and our God. Amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #614 "Great Are You, Lord" Great Is The Lord

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Fairest Lord Jesus" Crusader's Hymn  
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "How Can I Keep from Singing?" Craig Courtney

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Mark 9:2-9 2 Peter 1:1-2, 16-19 Dr. Janet Loman

Mark 9:2-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Simon 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. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

2 Peter 1:1-2, 16-19 (New Revised Standard Version)

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "It's True. I Know. I was There." Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining" Shine, Jesus, Shine

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

"Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining" Shine, Jesus, Shine  
Chancel Choir  
Congregation to join on refrain

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Bill Akins Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah*

*Sound System-Jonathon West Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Linda Pearson-E Sandy Abernathy-W Donna Phillips-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Amon Taylor-E Rev. Norm Story-W Rev. Nick Koontz-S*

Rev. Dr. Norm Story  
Dr. Janet Loman, CP

Pastor  
College Ministry

Rev. Pyong San Yu  
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck

Korean Congregation  
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:

- Jaxson Cummings, 2yr old family friend of Beth Thomas. Jaxson is battling croop, Covid, MRSA in both lungs, which one has collapsed. Prayers for his parents, 8 month old sister, Doctors, nurses and everyone involved in his care.
- Roger Sellers, who is currently at Las Cruces Post Acute Care in room 135.
- Prayers for A.B. & Millie Conrad's granddaughter who will be having surgery on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Praises for Gregg L's successful surgery and Dan T's good news on his medical results.
- Abelardo Alba; Bill Kuyper's friend George; Laura, Dinah's friend; Bob and Dianne Knapp; Patrick Cumming's mother, Margaret Jo; Ellen Harbaugh; Jack Curry; Sandra Valencia; Dee Brown; Bill and Virginia Haynes; Rich Lally, and Ken Shannon as they all are facing and dealing with health concerns and/or life changes.

Continued Prayer List:



Carole Davidson Pirruccello, Diana Davidson's sister; Kristin, family of Dot Otto; Jim Tomlinson; Caitie Hurley; Francis Nolan; Sherry Lindsey, friend of Amber Nolan; Marty Pope; America Carson; Arnold McMillan; Ken Osborne; Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Rev. Jay Bishop; Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller.

-2/12 Michael Xu  
Owusu Sekeyre  
-2/16 Brooke  
Montgomery

-2/18 Caleb  
Taylor  
-2/18 Greg  
Sherman



## 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 and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Deacons.**

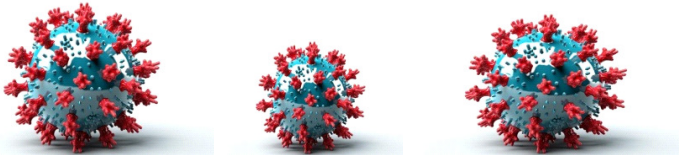


*Welcome*

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**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.



- Cash or check in the purple offering box.
- Check sent by mail.
- Online at [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
- Using the app “Church Center”.
- Text 84321

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

CCLI License No. 540727

More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](http://fpc.lc)

\*Church office hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-2PM, Phone 575.526.5559\*  
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005

Remember that  
you are dust



And to dust you  
shall return

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## **Salt & Light – “Ash Wednesday”**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

4:00-7:00 PM Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>

**5:15 PM** - Salt & Light Dinner,  
\$5.00 suggested donation, but any amount is appreciated

**Ash Wednesday service is at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

**Please call** the church office with a reservation by Monday at 575.526.5559 between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

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**In the Life of the Church**

**Mary Martha Circle**

Mary Martha Circle will be gathering on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in Jones Hall Library. We will be studying Colossians and will begin Bible Study at 10:00AM. All the ladies of our church are invited to join us as we continue our journey with the Apostle Paul.

In-Betweeners Coming Up!



On our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'll be getting together at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall for a planned potluck dinner. For our program, John Alberts has agreed to give his illustrated presentation on the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition (World's Fair) in Chicago, which featured several "firsts," such as its giant Ferris Wheel. Please let us know by Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, that you plan to come. Contact the Ames at 575.526.3247, or [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com).



The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) will present its Spring Members' Recital in our Sanctuary on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. The program is open to the public, and all of our First Presbyterian family are especially invited to attend. The recital will consist of organ solos (and some accompanied instrumental music) presented by



approximately eight AGO members and friends, most of whom are practicing organists in Las Cruces, Deming, and Silver City. An additional treat will be a performance by an AGO regional officer from the Texas area. There is no admission charge. More information can be found at <https://lascrucesago.org/>.

**Please join us for the International Potluck Luncheon**



**On Sunday, February 18th  
Following Worship in Watkins Hall**

**Bring your favorite to share, and  
drop off your dish in the Kitchen of Watkins Hall  
prior to Sunday School or prior to Worship.**

**We look forward to a celebration of the family of God around the world.**

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*



11th



Sunday, February

- 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 (see announcement)
- ♡ 12:00 PM Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Pick-up
- 12:30 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story



Monday, February 12th

5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild  
7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal  
7:00 PM College & Young Adults Bible Study in Jones Hall Library



Tuesday, February 13th

 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle (see announcement)  
3:00 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

 Wednesday, February 14th

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, "*Ash Wednesday*" (see announcement)  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 15th



6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting in Jones Hall Library



Friday, February 16th

Saturday, February 17th



8:30 AM Elder Retreat in Jones Hall Library



Sunday, February 18th


 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Caitie Brewer, beginning a new video & discussion series  
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 International Potluck in Watkins Hall