



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Via Dolorosa” (The Way of Sorrow)

Jacques-Louis Battmann (1818-1886)

“Lux Tenebris” (Light in Darkness)

Edmund Simon Lorenz (1854-1942)

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Larry Visser (b. 1962)

**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

International Potluck

Stephen Taylor

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Call to Lent”

Arr. J. Jerome Williams

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Diana Howard

(from Psalm 147 NRSV)

Leader: Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD gathers the outcasts. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

People: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. The Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Leader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

People: **Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

#166 “Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

St. Flavian

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

Thank you! Everything in me says "Thank you!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks. I kneel in worship facing your holy temple and say it again: "Thank you!" Thank you for your love, thank you for your faithfulness; Most holy is your name, most holy is your Word. The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength. When they hear what you have to say, God, all earth's kings will say "Thank you." They'll sing of what you've done: "How great the glory of God!" When I walk into the thick of trouble, keep me alive in the angry turmoil. With your hand you save me, finish what you started in me, God. Your love is eternal. **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

“When We Are Tested”
Chancel Choir

Angels of Healing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you have shown us a more excellent way, a way of love that is greater than all other ways. We confess that we have neglected love. We have failed to receive it, and we have failed to extend it. We tie it up with conditions. We make it conform to our terms. We have not accepted that it is boundless and beyond our reasoning. Forgive our timid responses to your great gift. Open us to love's possibilities, and expand our view of what love can accomplish. Help us walk renewed, faithful, and empowered new lives, blessed by the truth of your unrelenting love.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

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 is the foundation upon which we can trust and live hopeful lives?

People: **In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#164 “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”
Chancel Choir

West Main

Congregation to join on verses 2 and 3

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

CALL TO PRAYER “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” Sweet, Sweet Spirit

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Beneath the Cross Of Jesus” Arr. Lloyd Larson

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Mark 1:9-15 Genesis 9:8-17 Dr. Janet Loman

Mark 1:9-15 *New Revised Standard Version*

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.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Genesis 9:8-17 *New Revised Standard Version*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “A Time to Rekindle Our Love” Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #279 “Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove” St. Agnes

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Diana Howard Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah

Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Patricia Adu-Mensah-E Sandy Abernathy-W Donna Phillips-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Erin Taylor-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Rev. Norm Story-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:

- Long time church member Jean Wertz passed away on February 10th. Prayers for her family, daughter Jean and son Vincent Paul.
- Praises that Jaxon Cummings, 2 yr. old family friend of Beth Thomas, is now home.
- Joel and Barbara Trudell as they embark on a 5 week ministry trip.
- Rich Lally; Barb Turner, Donna Curtiss's sister; Bill Kuyper's friend George; Abelardo Alba; Jack Curry; Sandra Valencia; Dee Brown; Bill and Virginia Haynes; and Patrick Cumming's mother Margaret Jo, who are all facing some health concerns.
- Tom and Donna Marconi's grandson Shane.

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.

HAPPY
*Birth*day
TO YOU



2/18-Caleb Taylor

2/18-Greg Sherman

2/19-Dutch Matkin

2/21-Bill Mattiace

2/22-Gerald Moser

2/23-Greg Sherman Jr.



**Please join us today following Worship for the
International Potluck Luncheon in
Watkins Hall**

**Bring your favorite dish 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.

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*

CORONAVIRUS

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.



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- Check sent by mail.
- Online at fpc.lc/giving or via the QR code on the right.

Cash or check in the purple offering box.

- 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

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



In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light - “Jesus Demonstrates His Authority”
Wednesday, February 21st. Dinner will be spaghetti
with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad and a cup o’
dirt for dessert.

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

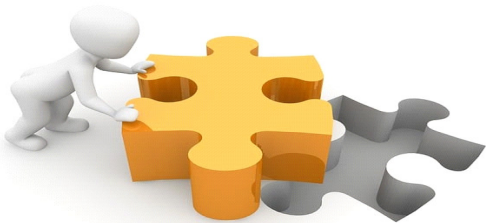


On our regular 4th Friday, February 23rd, we’ll be getting together at 6 PM
in Watkins Fellowship Hall for a planned potluck dinner. For our program, John Alberts has agreed to
give his illustrated presentation on the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition
(World’s Fair) in Chicago, which featured several “firsts,” such as its giant
Ferris Wheel. Please let us know by Monday, February 19th, that you plan to
come. Contact the Ames at 575.526.3247, or 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 25th 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/>.

Fellowship needs your help!



We are still in need of volunteers for February 25th and March 3rd. The sign-up board is available in the Jones Hall Fellowship Area.



Sunday, February 18th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School will be studying “The Lord’s Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught” by Adam Hamilton with Catie Brewer.
- 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 International Potluck (see announcement)

Monday, February 19th

Office Closed in Observance of Presidents’ Day

- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 20th

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Wednesday, February 21st

- 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 Demonstrates his Authority*” (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22nd

Friday, February 23rd

- 6:00 PM The In-Betweeners (see announcement)

Saturday, February 24th

Sunday, February 25th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Caitie Brewer. “The Lord’s Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught” by Adam Hamilton
- 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 with Rev. Norm Story in Jones Hall