



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico
2nd Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 - 10:30 A.M.
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Cross of Sorrow”	Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)
“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”	Lani Smith (1934-2015)
“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”	Hugh S. Livingston, Jr. (1945-2014)

**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

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:21~22 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” Marion

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 147)

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

#826 "Lift High the Cross"

Crucifer

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

Wonderful God, Almighty Redeemer - you have declared your love for us not only in words, but in deeds. We thank you for the love you have revealed through Christ Jesus, our Lord and for how you have granted us by his death and resurrection victory over the sin that is in us and in the world. We praise you for inviting us to be a part of your family and for reaching out to us when we have wandered from the path. Be with us this day as we worship you and listen to your word. Grant that we may be renewed in body and spirit that we might more worthily serve and adore you.... **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

"Lord, Have Mercy"
Chancel Choir

Kyrie Eleison

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: We read in First John, "and this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask

anything according to his will, he hears us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is God's promise, that through Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

People: "If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: Now cleansed from sin, how would God call us to live?

People: The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #726 “Will You Come and Follow Me” Kelvingrove

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER “Go to Dark Gethsemane” Redhead
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Gilbert Martin

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Isaiah 50:4-9 Mark 8:31-37 Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 50:4-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Mark 8:31-37 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Not Easy, But Well Worth It" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #718 "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" Bourbon

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Jesus, Remember Me" Remember Me

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Larry Hicks Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah

Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Robert Distlehorst-E Sandy Abernathy-W Patricia Adu-Mensah-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Debra Smith-E Rev. Norm Story-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

- The family of A.B. Conrad, Dee Brown, Jean Wertz, and Melanie Grant, in their passing this week.
- Patrick Cummings, the Trudells, and Divine Mboh in their travels.
- Sandra Valencia, Jack Curry, Eckhart Maier, and Roger Sellers as they recover.
- Grecia and Brad; Bob and Linda Seaton; Laura Stefan; Bob and Dianne Knapp; and Bill and Virginia Haynes.
- Our new Elders and Deacons as they participate in transforming others.

Continued Prayer List:

Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; David Bridges; Cindy Medina; Jim Tomlinson; Caitie Hurley; Francis Nolan; Sherry Lindsey, friend of Amber Nolan; Ken Osborne; Carole Davidson Pirruccello; Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller.





2/25 Donna Phillips
2/26 Cole Anderson
2/28 Diana Davidson
3/3 Millie Conrad

2/26 Eric Montgomery
2/27 Suzie Borchert
3/2 Johnnie Aldrich
3/3 Robert Distlehorst

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 CLOS.



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

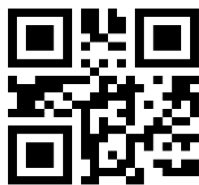
CORONAVIRUS

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.



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



website fpc.lc

More information can be found on our

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-

Wednesday, February 28th we will be studying *Jesus Heals, Prays, and Preaches*.
Dinner will be hay stacks, and mandarin oranges or apple slices for dessert.



The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) will present its Spring Members' Recital in our Sanctuary on today 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/>.



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.



Fellowship still needs volunteers for next Sunday, March 3rd, March 10th and April 7th. If you would like to volunteer to host Fellowship, the sign-up board is located in the Jones Hall Fellowship area.



Sunday, February 25th

- 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 After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
- 12:00PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story in Jones Hall

Monday, February 26th

- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 27th

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Wednesday, February 28th

- 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 Heals, Prays and Preaches*” (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29th

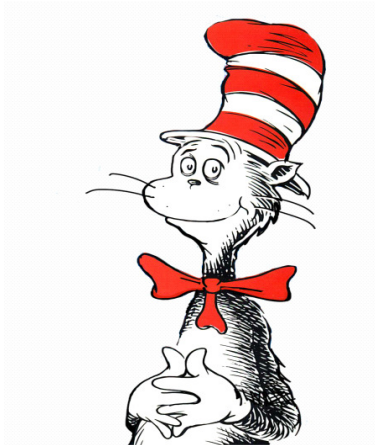
Leap Day

Friday, March 1st

Saturday, March 2nd

National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)

Sunday, March 3rd



9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer. "The Lord's Prayer: The

Meaning and Power of

the Prayer Jesus Taught" by Adam Hamilton

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