



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

3rd Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

March 3, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

William Barnett (1934-2015)

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Gerald Peterson (2010)

“Open the Gates of the Temple”

Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1839-1908)

**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

Why I Serve

Lon Anderson

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. (Ephesians 2:19, 21-22 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Truro

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(Bread of Life from the Gospel of John)

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

People: **Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #394 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Westminster Abbey

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Great God, in public and private, in sanctuary and home, may my life be steeped in prayer, filled with the spirit of grace and gratitude that calls and equips me to live in faithfulness and joy. Help us, defend us, until from this life we pass to the realm of unceasing praise in your presence. Urged by our need, invited by your promises, called by your Spirit, we enter your presence in worship, awed by your majesty, greatness and glory, but encouraged by your great love. Help us, we pray, to follow you as you lead us into the life and place you have created for us. Through our worship, fellowship, and service, restore and renew our troubled spirits with the assurance of your love and mercy. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

"Lord, Have Mercy upon Us"
Chancel Choir

Kyrie Eleison

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, you well know the content of our hearts, the situations of our lives, the circumstances of our relationships, and the truth of how we are living out our lives. No secrets are hidden from you. We know, merciful God, that you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, and see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel; that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. In Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.

Leader: Let us declare what we believe using the Apostles' Creed.

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#157 "I Danced in the Morning"

Lord of The Dance

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Lon Anderson

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“Ah, Holy Jesus”
Chancel Choir

Herzliebster Jesu

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“And We Remember”

Douglas Wagner

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 2:13-22

Dr. Janet Loman

John 2:13-22 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Here’s How To Irritate Jesus”

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN

#499 “Bread of the World in Mercy Broken”

Rendez A Dieu

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

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION "Jesus, Remember Me" Remember Me

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

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

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck
Liturgist-Erin Taylor Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah
Sound System-Curtis Beneway Video-Will Schroeder

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Donna Phillips-E Sandy Abernathy-W Kathleen Gardner-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Erin Taylor-E Lon Anderson-W Patricia Adu-Mensah-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

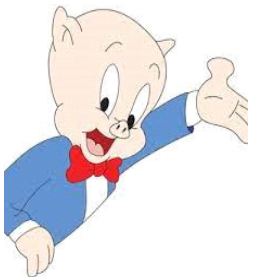
- The families of Dee Brown, and Donna Curtis' sister in their passing.
- Sandra Valencia, Jack Curry, and Eckhart Maier as they recover.
- Michael Shultz who is facing some health concerns.

Continued Prayer List:

Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Roger Sellers; Laura Stefan; 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.

*Fun fact, some of our church members share birthdays with some old cartoon favorites.

HAPPY
Birthday
DAY



3/7 Dorris Hamilton 3/9 Wayne Maley

3/9 James K. O'Neal



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 Administration.

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

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.

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



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In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light-

No Salt & Light from March 4th – March 17th due to Spring Break. Don't forget about our Bonita Park trip March 11th. Have a great and safe Spring Break!



Listening Prayer will begin meeting every Thursday at 1:30 PM in the Parlor located in Jones Hall beginning Thursday, March 7th. We hope you can join us!

There will be no Adult Sunday School on Sunday, March 10th due to overlapping travel for Spring Break. Participants are encouraged to use that time to read the accounts of Holy Week in the Four Gospels, especially the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This will help us prepare for our next series, "Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday" by Amy-Jill Levine, which we will watch and discuss on March 17th, 24th and 31st.



A warm congratulations to Dr. Chibuzo Chilaka, whose recently-published doctoral research paper has "gone viral" on the internet! The title of the paper is "Sustaining aquifers hydrologically, economically, and institutionally: Policy analysis of the Ogallala in New Mexico." The NMSU Vice-President of Research called Chibuzo to express his pleasure in the announcement.

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT DINNER NIGHT

Please join us for Dinner Night at the Lomans'!

**Friday, March 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM
1622 West Union Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88005**



Questions? Please contact Janet:

575.202.4379 drjml@me.com

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



Sunday, March 3rd

- 9:00 AM** Adult Sunday School is 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, March 4th

7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 5th

Wednesday, March 6th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during meeting)
12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7th

1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor (see announcement)

Friday, March 8th

6:00 PM College and Young Adults Dinner Night at The Lomans' (see announcement)

Saturday, March 9th

Sunday, March 10th

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