



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

J. William Greene (b. 1956)

“God So Loved the World” John Stainer(1840-1901) Setting by Lyndell Leatherman (b. 1953)

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

James Mansfield (1927-2018)

\*\*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

### MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NRSV)

### CHORAL INTROIT

“Lift High The Cross”

Crucifer

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Conniff

(from Psalm 107, John 3 NRSV)

Leader: Light has entered our world; rejoice! Light is God’s gift to each, and to all together.

**People: Give thanks to God for days of watchful care. The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

Leader: Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice! Let them tell the world of God’s good news!

**People: We will thank God for wonderful works. We will rejoice in God’s love for all humankind.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #299 "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim" Hanover

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

Loving God, who sent Jesus to earth to share our common lot and bring eternal life into our midst, help us to believe and to trust. Show us the light of your revelation as we welcome its presence in the life of this congregation whenever we gather and whenever we scatter to our daily activities. May we consciously represent you in all our deeds so that the world may come to a saving knowledge of your grace. We pray this in the Name of the one who taught us to pray, saying...

**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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF CONFESSION #443 "There Is A Redeemer" Green

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: God's children walk by God's light, doing what is true. Yet salvation is not earned by good works, but through trust in God's grace.**

Leader: If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness.

**People: And if the Holy Spirit dwells in us, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to our mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE                      “The Old Rugged Cross”                      Rugged Cross

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES                      Rev. Larry Hicks

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

CALL TO PRAYER                      #467 “Give Us Light”                      Jyothi Dho

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM                      “What Wondrous Love Is This”                      Arr. Karol Kimmell  
Roni Hardin, Mary Maley, and Winnie Quinzi, Handbells

### **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS                      Numbers 21:5-9                      John 3:14-21                      Dr. Janet Loman  
Numbers 21:5-9 *New Revised Standard Version*

The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21 *New Revised Standard Version*

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the

name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Imputed Righteousness” Rev. Nick Koontz

\*CLOSING HYMN #826 “Lift High The Cross” Crucifer

### **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.

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Laura Conniff Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah  
Sound System-Jonathon West Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:  
Donna Phillips-E Sandy Abernathy-W Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:  
Robert Distlehorst-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Rev. Larry Hicks-S*

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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-

- Millie Conrad in the passing of her husband A.B. Conrad.
- Sandra Valencia, Jack Curry, Eckhart Maier, Arnold McMillan, and Michael Shultz as they are all recovering or 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, at The Heritage; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; and Joyce Curry at Solstice.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

3/11 Jessica Smith  
3/13 Natassja Galaz

3/11 Janice Sherman  
3/14 Joanne Kersting

3/12 Carl Connor  
3/14 Giselle Sanchez



3/14 Domhnall MacDougall-Deason

### \*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 Jennie Curry Bible Study.

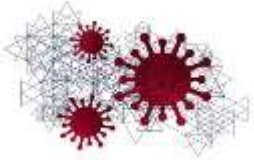
**Don't Forget!**

There will be no Salt & Light this week, and our  
Golf Park trip is coming up this Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

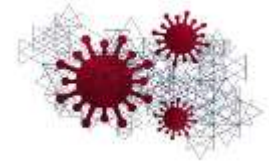


Our Worship services are now available:

- 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



## 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.

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the bottom left.
4. Using the app "Church Center".
5. 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



**-In the Life of the Church-**



## Mary Martha Circle

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church! Please join us Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM to socialize with friends and guests in Jones Hall Library. Our bible study will begin at 10:00 AM. Gracia Class will lead our bible study about the Prophet Paul, who wrote Colossians. After Bible Study we will be discussing hosting Fellowship on Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations



Each year, the Congregational Life and Outreach Support ministry team hides several hundred plastic eggs, filled with candy, for our kids to hunt after the Easter Worship service. We are beginning to accept candy donations. Please make sure that candy is individually wrapped and small sized so that it will fit in a plastic egg. Non-melting type candy is preferred, melted chocolate and new Easter clothes are not a good combination. Please drop your donation off at the entrance of the Sanctuary or the church office. We will be having an egg filling party at 5:30 PM on March 28<sup>th</sup>, before the Maundy Thursday service.



### In-Betweeners

For March on our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we plan to get together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner this time will be catered (cost \$15/person.) After dinner, local historian and author Jim Eckles will be presenting an illustrated talk titled "Victorio Peak: 450 tons of gold, or one whopper of a tall tale." For planning purposes, please let us know by Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, that you will be coming. Contact the Ames at 575.526.3247 or [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com).

### Annual Luncheon Sunday March 24

Please join us for our Annual Luncheon after Worship on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

You'll get to hear from our Leadership about what our church accomplished last year, and most importantly, where we're headed this year.

The Annual Luncheon will be hosted by the youth and CLOS.

If you are visiting and love good food, you are invited to join us.

Where: Reeves Hall (just follow the hungry folks headed in that direction after Worship)

Who: Everyone is welcome. You don't have to bring anything except an appetite.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



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. Nick Koontz in Jones Hall

Monday, March 11th

- Youth Group Bonita Park Trip
- 5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library
- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 12th

- 9:45 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Committee Night

Wednesday, March 13th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 14th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, March 15th

Saturday, March 16th

Sunday, March 17th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School will be studying "Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday" by Amy-Jill Levine taught by 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
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