



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

“Three Hymns from the cantata *Olivet to Calvary*”

John Henry Maunder (1858-1920)

“Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”

Robert W. Thygeson (1921-2017)

“Orchestral Suite #2 in B minor: Rondeau”

J.S. Bach

“Opus 2, Sonata #4: Allegro”

G.P. Telemann

Vicki Kuyper, Flute; Holly Dalager, Oboe

**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

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. (Hebrews 5:7-9 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“God, We Honor You”

Abundant Blessings

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Akins

(from Psalm 119:9-16 NRSV)

Leader: How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

People: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.

Leader: With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth. I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

People: I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #247 "Now the Green Blade Rises" Noel Nouvelet

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

Lord, our God - whose power is beyond compare, and glory is beyond understanding; whose mercy is boundless, and love for us is ineffable - Look upon us with your compassion and grant us your abundant mercy; for to you belong all glory, honor, and worship to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages...**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 51:1-12, unison)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

HYMN OF CONFESSION #422 "Create In Me a Clean Heart" Create In Me

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.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #171 "A Sower Came from Ancient Hills" Seachrist

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER #223 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Hamburg

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Kyrie from No Greater Love Mass"
Leah Mathe and Bryan Berard, Solos

Michael Joncas

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS John 12:20-33 John 4:7-11; 17-21

Dr. Janet Loman

John 12:20-33 *New Revised Standard Version*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

John 4:7-11; 17-21 *New Revised Standard Version*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached

perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Power of God's Vulnerability" Dr. Janet Loman

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

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

*Liturgist-Alonso Brewer Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:
Dawn Griffin O'Neal-E Sandy Abernathy-W Sharon Rooney-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Rev. Nick Koontz-E Rev. Dr. Janet Loman-W Debra Smith-S*

Rev. Dr. Norm Story

Dr. Janet Loman, CP

Ada Castle

Dr. Paul Deason

Beth Borchert-Thomas

Rev. Nick Koontz

Pastor

College Ministry

Commissioned Pastor

Commissioned Pastor

Dir. of Music & Bells

Dir. of Family Ministries

Rev. Pyong San Yu

Dr. Howard A. Smolleck

Karen Candusso

Karen Candusso

Veronica Giron

Miranda Baker-French

Korean Congregation

Organist

Salt & Light Coord.

Youth Group Sponsor

Secretary

Bookkeeper

Please Remember In Your Prayers-



- Millie Conrad in the passing of her husband, A.B. Conrad.
- 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-

3/18 Rev. Marcus Burr

3/20 Kileigh Higgenbotham

3/23 Elizabeth Varela

3/23 Ryan Fellman



FELLOWSHIP

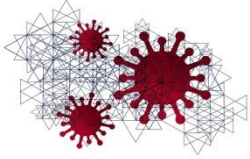
Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Missions Committee.



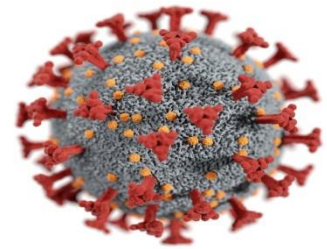
Our Worship services are now available:

- 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 or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app "Church Center".
5. Text 84321



CCLI License No. 540727

More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

***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

We're back!! Join us this Wednesday, March 20th, as we will be studying *Jesus Calms a Storm*, and it's also Taco Night! We look forward to seeing you all soon.



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 an entrance of the Sanctuary or the church office. We will be having an egg-filling party at 5:30 PM on March 28th, before the Maundy Thursday service.



In-Betweeners for March

On our regular 4th Friday, 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 18th, that you will be coming. Contact the Ames at 575.526.3247 or jkames@q.com.

Annual Luncheon Sunday March 24

**Please join us for our Annual Luncheon after Worship on Sunday, March 24th.
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 !



HAPPY *St. Patrick's Day*



Sunday, March 17th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School will be studying the video "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

Monday, March 18th

- 3:30 PM Storytellers of Las Cruces in Jones Hall, everyone is welcome
- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 19th

Wednesday, March 20th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light, *Jesus Calms a Storm* (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 21st

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 7:00 PM Centennial High School Concert in the Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, March 22nd

6:00PM In-Betweeners Dinner in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Saturday, March 23rd

Sunday, March 24th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School will be studying the video “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

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9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary

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