



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Communion Sunday

April 7, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“Christ Is Arisen”

Lyndell Leatherman (b. 1953)

“Never Further than Thy Cross”

James Mansfield (1927-2018)

“I’ve Been Redeemed”

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

\*\*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

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:18-19 NRSV)

### CHORAL INTROIT

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

Siyahamba

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lon Anderson

(Psalm 36 NRSV)

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

**People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

**People: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

### \*HYMN OF PREPARATION

#744 “Arise, You Light Is Come!”

Festal Song

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Lord Jesus, we come in gratitude to praise and honor you and the glory of the majesty of your works. On the way to our worship today, we were surrounded by the wonder and beauty of your creation. Grant us eyes and hearts that notice the bounty of your blessings. Holy God, you fill our lives with the blessings of abundance. Help us be wise and faithful in using our lives and all they contain. Lord, show us where and how to give. Show us where and how to reflect your own gracious love and forgiveness. Show us where and how we can serve and know the satisfaction of being useful in the work and purpose of your kingdom. Help us come before you in worship that is worthy and pleasing to you. Pour out your Holy Spirit into our lives to give us peace to take up the cross and follow Christ today, tomorrow, and always. In his name we pray, Amen.

## PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION #519 "You Are My Strength When I Am Weak" Jernigan

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of love and tenderness, You call us from the chaos of our lives, just as we are. Embrace each of us now as we confess our sins. Forgive us for the opportunities we miss, for squandering our gifts, for wasting our time, and for simply being too busy and preoccupied to keep our focus on the things that really matter. Where we have fallen short of doing your will, forgive us. Where we have neglected those in need, forgive us. Where we have been selfish and hurt other people, forgive us. By your mercy and grace, lead us to live in ways that more faithfully reflect your steadfast loving kindness.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** Hear and believe the Good News! If anyone is in Christ, there is a new beginning. What was old is past and gone. Everything has become alive with new possibilities. Step forward into fullness of life with the certain knowledge that in Christ we are forgiven and freed.

**People:** **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God, amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #377 "I Want To Walk As A Child of The Light" Houston

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Nick Koontz

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Our Darkness is Never Darkness" La Tenebre



## Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Seed, Scattered and Sown”

Seed Scattered

### PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

1 John 1:1-2:2 (New Revised Standard Version)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but 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.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What Does Grace Look Like?”

Rev. Norm Story

\*COMMUNION HYMN

#525 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let Us Break Bread

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays on the west and south sides, and the choir. 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 #192 "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Shine, Jesus, Shine

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

*After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer.*

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Lon Anderson Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh  
Sound System-Curtis Beneway Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Bob Distlehorst-E Sandy Abernathy-W Nancy Tasker-Johnson-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Rev. Nick Koontz-E Dennis Thomas-W Bob Distlehorst-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

Catalina Munoz

Korean Congregation

Organist

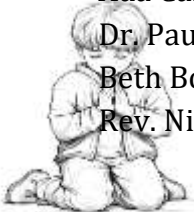
Salt & Light Coord.

Youth Group Sponsor

Secretary

Bookkeeper

**Please Remember in your Prayers**



David Bridges, as he settles into his new apartment, and everyone who helped him move.  
Liliana Pena, a 2 year old who's been recently diagnosed with leukemia.  
America Carson, Marty Pope and Moris Hardy, all of whom are facing some health concerns.

### Continued Prayer List:

Francis Nolan; Sherry Lindsey; Rhett Putman; Millie Conrad; Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Cindy Medina; Arnold McMillan; Kathy Story; Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller, at The Heritage; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; and Joyce Curry at Solstice.



4/7 Jerome Claessen    4/9 Lourdes Maldonado

4/7 Miranda Baker-French    4/12 Divine Mboh

4/8 John Pleasant    4/12 Kathlene Walker

### 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.

**\*Fellowship is still in need of volunteers for April 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 5<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up board can be found in the Jones Hall Fellowship Area.\***

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.

WELCOME



- 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 right.
4. Using the app "Church Center".
5. Text 84321



CCLI License No. 540727

More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](http://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

### COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT DINNER NIGHT

Come and celebrate Spring together with a  
 Backyard Dinner Night at the Lomans'!

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
 1622 West Union Avenue  
 Las Cruces, NM 88005

Questions? Please contact Janet:  
 575.202.4379  
[drjml@me.com](mailto:drjml@me.com)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!  
 (Just let us know)



**In the life of the Church**

## Salt & Light

Join us this Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, for our Outdoor Picnic and concert! We will be having hamburgers, hotdogs, potato chips, baked beans, potato & macaroni salad, and root beer floats for dessert. Come on out for some great family fun!



## Mary Martha Circle

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church! Please join us Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM, in Jones Hall Library to socialize with friends and guests. We will be studying the Book of Colossians, and we will begin Bible Study at 10:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you all there!



## **Spring Clean-Up Day!**



All hands on deck! Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> is our annual Spring Clean-Up Day from 8:00 AM-12:00PM. If you would like to help beautify our church, please check-in at Jones Hall to be placed on a project. Early arrivals will get to choose which project they'd like to work on. We ask that you please bring your own work gloves, as we will only be providing nitrile exam gloves.

Nick is also seeking a handful of folks to help organize materials, and clean up toys and furniture in Branigan Hall that day as well. Would you like to get to know other members better? This is a great opportunity to do so! We hope to see you then.

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School

# April

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 After-Worship discussion with Rev. Norm Story in Jones Hall

Monday, April 8th

5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library  
7:00 PM Bells of Praise

Tuesday, April 9th

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

Wednesday, April 10th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Office will be closed during this time  
12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News  
4:00 PM Salt & Light Picnic Night & Musical (see announcement)  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 11th

1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, April 12th

6:00 PM College & Young Adult Dinner (see announcement)

Saturday, April 13th

8:00 AM Spring Clean-Up Day (see announcement)

Sunday, April 14th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School  
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 (see announcement)  
12:00 PM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall with Rev. Norm Story