



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
4th Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“The Lord Is My Shepherd” (by Samuel Liddle, 1867-1951; Arranged by Lawrence Grant, 1970)
“God Will Take Care of You” Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)
“From God Can Nothing Move Me” (Hymn tune of 1557) – Jeffrey Blersch (b. 1967)

**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

Let mutual love continue. Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
(Hebrews 13:1, 20-21 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” St. Columbia

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Mary Maley

(Ezekeil 34)

Leader: The word of the Lord came to me: For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep.

People: **I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep.**

Leader: I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall

feed them and be their shepherd.

People: You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture and I am your God, says the Lord God.

HYMN OF PRAISE #396 "Brethren, We Have Met To Worship" Holy Manna

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

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. I bind unto myself the Name, the strong Name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three. By Whom all nature hath creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word: Praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord. **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 Jesus, Think On Me" Southwell
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Our Heavenly Father and Creator of all things, you breathed the breath of life into each of your children. You know our every need and care for us faithfully. Yet, too often we fail to follow your call and your guidance. We confess that we have not loved as you would have us love. We have not always been peace makers in our families, our communities, and in our world. Loving God, forgive us that our love for you has not been more passionate; that our dreams and vision have fallen short of your expectations of us. Send your Spirit upon us so that we may witness to the Good News of your love and fill us with joyful hope so that we live more Christ-like lives. Hear our prayer, O God of everlasting love.

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.

Leader: How can we be sure that God has forgiven our sin?

People: God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of man, doth freely offer this salvation to all men in the gospel. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive

therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Bradbury

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Bradbury
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Gather at the River" Susan LaBarr

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Isaiah 40:1-5, 10-11 John 10:11-18 Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 40:1-5, 10-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

John 10:11-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Living the Good Shepherd Reality" "Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #239 "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" Gelobt Sei Gott

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" Gelobt Sei Gott

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Cliford Ateгах-E Sandy Abernathy-W Rev. Nick Koontz-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Debra Smith-E Rev. Norm Story-W Mary Maley-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	Catalina Munoz	Bookkeeper

Please Remember in your Prayers

- Everyone who assisted in the Spring Clean-Up Day.
- Ashley, a coworker of Caitie Brewer, who is in the hospital.
- Jose, Alora Nevarez's husband; Mark Jenkins; Mark Krohn; Divine's coworkers husband Kenneth; and Liliana Pena who are all dealing with some health concerns.

Continued Prayer List



Jack and Joyce Curry at Solstice; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; Arnold McMillan; Kathy Story; Jessica Borchert-Stout; Jeremy Stout; Cindy Medina; Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller, at The Heritage.

4/21 MariEsther Burnham

4/22 Ruth Akins 4/23 Antonio Cruz

4/25 Greg Temple 4/25 Dot Otto

4/26 Rebekah West 4/26 Janet Mara

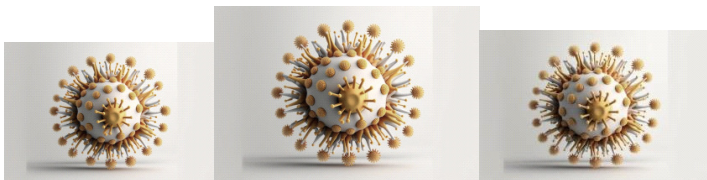
4/26 Will Mattiace

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 Buildings and Grounds.

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.



- 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

CCLI License No.

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

REMINDERS

The Salt & Light Wednesday after-school ministry
for children and youth will resume in the fall.

FUZE Youth Group will begin Wednesday, May 1st, from 5-7 PM

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On Friday, April 26th, at 6 PM, we plan to get together for a planned potluck dinner in Watkins Fellowship Hall. After dinner, Bill Kuyper has agreed to share stories about great and beloved hymns; we will be singing some of them, too!

Please let us know you will be coming, as well as what category of dish you'd like to bring, by Monday, April 22nd. Contact the Ames at jkames@q.com of 575.526.3247.

Sunday, April 21st

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Caitie Brewer in Jones Hall Library
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

Monday, April 22nd

7:00 PM Bells of Praise

Tuesday, April 23rd

Wednesday, April 24th

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
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25th

1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
Deacons

Friday, April 26th

Saturday, April 27th

Sunday, April 28th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Caitie Brewer in Jones Hall Library

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

PM Sermon discussion in Jones Hall with Rev. Norm Story

12:00