



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”  
“Vinea Mea Electa” (My Chosen Vine)  
“In Heavenly Love Abiding”

David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)  
Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)  
James Pethel (b. 1936)

\*\*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

Rev. Nick Koontz

### MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. (Psalm 1:1-3 NRSV)

### INTROIT

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Linstead

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Akins

(from Psalm 121)

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

**People: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

Leader: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**People: The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#611 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Hymn To Joy

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

O Lord our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, this is your day, the heavenly ordinance of rest, the open door of worship, the record of Jesus' resurrection, the day when saints militant and triumphant unite in endless song. We bless you for the throne of grace, that here free favor reigns; that open access to it is through the sacrifice of Jesus; that the veil is torn aside and we can enter the holiest and find you ready to hear, waiting to be gracious, inviting us to pour out our needs, and promising to give more than we can ask or think. Give us in rich abundance the blessings the Lord's Day was designed to impart. Grant that through our worship our hearts will be knit closer to Jesus, who taught us to pray, **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

"Abide With Me"  
Chancel Choir

Eventide

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Our God of mercy and gracious goodness, you have asked us to serve you in sincerity and faithfulness. We confess that sometimes we go through the motions without really meaning what we have said and done. You have asked us to serve you, but so often we worship lesser and false gods instead. You are a holy God who loves us, and so you sent Jesus to forgive our sins. Forgive us for neglecting you and following foolish and worldly distractions. Forgive us for not being ready and willing when you have called us. Help us awaken to your mercy and pardon, to your call and challenge to our complacency, and hereafter may we walk in sincerity and faithfulness with you, as guided by your Holy Spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. And Christ rose for us and takes away all our sin. I therefore declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.

**People: In Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven, thanks be to God, amen.**

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

**People: We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#188 "Jesus Loves Me!"

Jesus Loves Me

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND NEW MEMBER CELEBRATION

Barry Sullivan

\* (Elders currently serving on Session will greet our new member while the congregation stands and sings hymn # 306, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds", vs. 1-2)

CALL TO PRAYER

#285 "Like the Murmur of The Dove's Song"

Bridegroom

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 5:1-7 John 15:1-11

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 5:1-7 (New Revised Standard Version)

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

John 15:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may

be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Abide in Me Means Let Me Help You" Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #828 "More Love to Thee, O Christ" More Love to Thee

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" Sicilian Mariners

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Bill Akins Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah*

*Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Chibuzo Chilaka-E Sandy Abernathy-W Rev. Nick Koontz-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Erin Taylor-E Rev. Norm Story-W Bill Akins-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 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 Cat Munoz Bookkeeper

## Please Remember in your Prayers

- Ashley, a coworker of Catie Brewer, who is in the hospital.
- Jose, Alora Nevarez's husband; and Liliana Pena who are all dealing with some health concerns.
- David Bridges, who is almost completely moved into his new apartment.

## Continued Prayer List

Jack and Joyce Curry at Solstice; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; Arnold McMillan;

Kathy Story; Jessica Borchert-Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Cindy Medina; Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller, at The Heritage.



~Happy Birthday~



4/28 Dominic Candusso  
4/30 Eileen Hood  
5/4 Tom Marconi

4/29 Diana Howard  
5/3 David Curtiss  
5/7 Dale Cook

### 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 Christian Education.**

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](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
- Using the app “Church Center”.
- 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

## **In the Life of the Church**

Fellowship needs volunteers!

The after-service Fellowship needs help on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to host Fellowship, the sign-up board can be found in Jones Hall Fellowship area.

\*FUZE Youth Group will begin Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5-7 PM\*



The Youth Mission trip to the Navajo Nation will be

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.



Vacation Bible School will be “Scuba Diving into Friendship with God” on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you all there!

### Let's Honor Our Graduates!

Do you have a graduate or know of a student who is graduating from either high school or college this spring? The Congregational Life and Outreach Support team will be recognizing graduates on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please send names to Veronica, our church secretary, either by email, [secretary@fpc.lc](mailto:secretary@fpc.lc) or phone 575.526.5559. Be sure to mention their school.

### Jennie Curry Bible Study

The Jennie Curry Bible Study is studying Beth Moore's Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John. We will be meeting this coming Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Jones Hall Library. If you'd like to join us, want more information or have any questions, please get in touch with Kathy Story via email at [storyk@comcast.net](mailto:storyk@comcast.net)

# April

Sunday, April 21st

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie 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 announcement)  
12:00 PM Sermon discussion with Rev. Norm Story in Jones Hall

Monday, April 22nd

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News  
7:00 PM Bells of Praise

Tuesday, April 23rd

Wednesday, April 24th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Office will be closed during this time  
5:00 PM FUZE Youth Group (see announcement)  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25th

1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor  
6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)

Friday, April 26th

Saturday, April 27th

Sunday, April 28th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie 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  
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