



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

7th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Recognition of Graduates

May 12, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Mother”

Walter Percy Price (1871-1955)

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” (Hymn tune of 1986)

Fred B. Binckes (b.1936)

“Lord of Our Life” (Hymn tune of 1746)

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

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Lon Anderson

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies. (Isaiah 66:13-14)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

Yisrael V'Oraita

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jerry Moser

Leader: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

People: **For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 8:38-39)

Leader: Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. (Isaiah 49:15-16)

People: **As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.** (Isaiah 66:13, Hebrews 10:23)

*HYMN OF PRAISE #366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Hyfrydol

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

O Lord, what a beautiful and bright morning you have given us! What a treat to come and worship, to praise and glorify your name! In wonder, we thank you for the abundance of blessings and gifts in our lives. Were we to make a list of all the ways we are blessed, we would never be able to finish the task. Thank you, and may we be ever more mindful of your benefits, endless blessings, and steadfast loving kindness. In our worship, may we be as exuberant and eager as our children. Help us set aside the concerns of this world and come into your presence with childlike joy and anticipation. **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 #432 “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord” Repton
Chancel Choir will sing verse 1
Congregation will join on verses 2, 3, and 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

(Psalm 51)

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. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: If the Lord remembered our sin, who could stand? For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But the Lord has promised, “I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God.

People: The Lord’s name be praised. In Jesus Christ all our sin is forgiven. Amen.

Leader: Now cleansed from our sin, how should we live in faithful response?

People: Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #828 “More Love to Thee, O Christ” More Love to Thee

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Lon Anderson

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

CALL TO PRAYER “Open the Eyes of My Heart” Open The Eyes
Leah Mathe, Solo

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “My Jesus, I Love Thee” Arr. Emily Lund

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:8-12, 17 1 John 4:19-5:5, 12-13

John 15:8-12, 17 (New Revised Standard Version)

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. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

1 John 4:19-5:5, 12-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, 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. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we

know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "An Abiding Relationship of Love" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #703 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" St. Catherine

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION "Jesus Loves Me!" Jesus Loves Me

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Please Remember in your Prayers

- Catie Brewer's family as they mourn the loss of her grandmother.
- The family of Norma Klein, who passed on April 22nd.
- Laura, a friend of Dinah, who is facing a difficult week with her cancer journey.
- Jose, Alora Nevarez's husband; and Liliana Pena who are facing 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 Borchert; Cindy Medina; Dorris Hamilton, Mel Parish and Ann Miller at The Heritage.



In Honor of our Graduates

Class Of
2024

Rosa Taylor
NMSU, BS in Electrical Engineering, December 2023
Daughter of Stephen & Erin Taylor

Naomi Loya
Dona Ana County Firefighter Academy
Daughter of Alejandra Cisneros

Lila Jane Pickett
Arizona State University
Granddaughter of Bill & Wanda Mattiace

Molly Ann Schroeder
Trinity University, Bachelor of Science in Biology
Daughter of Max & Dina Schroeder, granddaughter of Steve & Janet Loman

Leah Mathe
Colorado State University, Master of Music
Choral Scholar, December 2023

Somayye Majidi
NMSU, Master of Science in Statistics

Priscilla Leanne Ramirez
Mayfield High School
Granddaughter of Josephine Friez

Blessed Ngoe
CU Boulder, PhD in Communications

Chibuzo Chilaka
NMSU, PhD Hydrology



Liturgist-Jerry Moser Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh

Sound System-Jonathan West Video-Rusty Smith

Greeting before Worship Service:

Divine Mboh-E Sandy Abernathy-W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story-E Lon Anderson-W Jerry Moser-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



5/12 Farzin Abadizaman

5/13 Jeanette Smith

5/13 Leslie Nganou

5/14 Max Schroeder

5/14 Richard Mbatang
Maley

5/17 E. Kathleen Gardner

5/15 Mary

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 88001

In the Life of the Church

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will be having our Spring Luncheon at LORENZO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, across from NMSU on University Ave, on Tuesday, May 14th, at 11:30 AM. Barbara Trudell will be sharing how she and Joel became involved with the SIL/Summer Institute of Linguistics 44 years ago. We will also be celebrating our ongoing Bible studies, this year, of Nehemiah and Colossians.

During our luncheon we will be collecting diapers and sunscreen for the children at Jardin de Los Ninos, and books for the Children's Reading Alliance summer programs.

If you would like to join us, please RSVP by Sunday, May 12th, to Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395, or Helen Moser, 575.647.3365. We look forward to sharing a meal and conversation with all ladies of the church family!



In-Betweeners Save the Date

On our regular fourth Friday, May 24th, we'll be getting together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner this time will be pizza, salad, and dessert. It's always just fine to bring your own meal, if you wish, and enjoy it in In-Betweeners' good fellowship; just let us know, so we won't order pizza for you.

After dinner, the Burrs will be taking us along on the trip they made to Arkansas to view the total eclipse!

Please let us know by Monday, May 20th, that you plan to come. Phone the Ames at 575.526.3247, or just catch us after Worship.

"There's no way to be a perfect mother and a million ways to be a good one."

Jill Churchill



Sunday, May 12th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School will resume next week
- 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, May 13th

- 8:00 AM LCHS AP Testing in Watkins Hall, please do not enter Watkins until after 4PM
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild
- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise

Tuesday, May 14th

- 8:00 AM LCHS AP Testing in Watkins Hall, please do not enter Watkins until after 4PM
- 9:45 AM Mary Martha Circle Spring Luncheon (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Centennial High School Concert in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, May 15th

- 8:00 AM LCHS AP Testing in Watkins Hall, please do not enter Watkins until after 4PM
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, the Church Office will be closed during this time
- 10:00 AM Fallen Officers Memorial Service in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 5:00 PM FUZE Youth Group
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 16th

- 12:00 PM LCHS AP Testing in Watkins Hall, please do not enter Watkins until after 4PM
- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 6:00 PM Camino Middle School Concert in the Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall Library

Friday, May 17th

- 8:00 AM LCHS AP Testing in Watkins Hall, please do not enter Watkins until after 4PM

Saturday, May 18th

Sunday, May 19th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer will be watching and discussing the video series "Epic of Eden: Psalms" by Sandra Richter 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