



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
4th Sunday after Pentecost – Father’s Day
June 16, 2024 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Father, Most Holy” (Hymn tune of 1681) David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)
“Under His Wings” (In Setting of The Swan by Camille Saint-Saens, 1835-1921)
Matthew McConnell (b. 1980)
“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” (Hymn tune of 1763) Gayden Sikes (b. 1945)

**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

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:7-8 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “Now The Green Blade Rises” Noel Nouvelet

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Jim O’Neal
(from Psalm 78 and 79)

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

People: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Leader: He established a decree and appointed a law, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know

them, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments

People: Then we your people, the flock of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#714 "God of the Fertile Fields"

Italian Hymn

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

Gracious Lord, we come this day as your own people, your children in need. We come hoping that today we will hear a word of hope and joy, that you will touch us with your healing comfort, and give us the courage and strength we need. Eternal Father, send your Spirit to speak your Word, your Wisdom, and your Truth to us. You know, O Merciful Savior, the burdens we bear, the troubles we fear, the mistakes and crises of our lives that make us anxious and doubtful. You know our secrets, the needs and hurts that brought us here, even those we dare not mention to anyone else. By your love and grace, speak to us, and let your compassion so fill our lives that we walk and live in your power to make all things new ... **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

"O Lamb of God"
Chancel Choir

Land of Rest

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgiving God, as we worship you today, we are aware of our own shortcomings, our failings, and our sins. We remember how we have failed to love you fully, or to show your love to others. We recall times when we have spoken out of hurt or anger, instead of expressing grace, patience, and love. We see that we have treated others unfairly, and we long to make things right. Have mercy on us, O God. Release us from our sin and guilt by the power and love of Jesus the Christ. Help us, Lord, by your power and Spirit to live more faithful lives that reflect your truth and grace. O Lord, grant that we may hear you in the silence as we listen for your voice.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NRSV)

Leader: May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls us is faithful, and he will do this. Friends, believe the good news, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God, for all our sin is forgiven and gone. May that grace move us closer to Christ and His intended purpose for our lives.**

Leader: How does the Holy Spirit help us live faithful lives?

People: **In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.¹**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #800 "Sometimes a Light Surprises" Salley Gardens

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Chibuzo Chilaka

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

CALL TO PRAYER #64 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" Amazing Grace

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "What is the World Like" New World

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Judges 2:6-7, 10-13 Mark 4:26-32 Dr. Janet Loman
Judges 2:6-7, 10-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

When Joshua dismissed the people, the Israelites all went to their own inheritances to take possession of the land. The people worshiped the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and

¹ from the Brief Statement of Faith, adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 1993.

another generation grew up after them, who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and worshiped the Baals; and they abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them, and bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. They abandoned the Lord, and worshipped Baal and the Astartes.

Mark 4:26-32 (New Revised Standard Version)

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "A Mystery and a Surprise" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #26 "For the Fruit of All Creation" Ar Hyd Y Nos

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION "591 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" Halle Halle

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Jim O'Neal Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

*Greeting before Worship Service:
Robert Distlehorst-E Donna Phillips-W Linda Pearson-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Jim O'Neal-E Chibuzo Chilaka-W Rev. Norm Story-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

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.

6/16 Joyce Curry

6/17 Valeria Montes



6/17 Jonathon West

6/17 Judith Cassles

6/22 Alonzo Brewer

Please Remember in your Prayers

- Our Youth Group and Staff as they are in the Navajo Nation on their mission trip.
- The family of Bill Diener, who passed on June 11th.
- The family of Stephen Reese, friends of Tom and Donna Marconi.
- Nancy Cowan's 14-year-old great nephew who is battling cancer.
- Jessica Moiser's baby girl Aaliyah, who was born prematurely.
- Johnathan Jackson, Ada's grandson-in-law, who was deployed with the Navy.

Continued Prayer List

Jack and Joyce Curry at Solstice; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; Arnold McMillan; Jessica Borchert-Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Cindy Medina; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, Mel Parish, and Ann Miller at The Heritage.

Welcome!

Our Worship services are 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

Vacation Bible School

We will be “Scuba Diving into Friendship with God”

On Monday, July 8th through Friday, July 12th.

Come have a WHALE of a time with us!

In-Betweeners

On our regular fourth Friday evening, June 28th, we plan to get together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for a planned potluck dinner in good fellowship. After dinner, we'll be viewing “Rivers of Gold,” a beautiful nature-themed video. Please let us know that you'll be coming and what category of dish (main dish, veg/side, salad, or dessert – can be homemade or purchased) you'd like to bring by Monday, June 24th. Contact the Ames at 575.526.3247, jkames@a.com, or just catch us after worship!

Hello from the Deacons!

We are once again going to provide backpacks and school supplies for kids. We also need names from you of those kids you would like to get new backpacks. They can be from our church or others you know who could use a little help. We hope you will continue your generosity and help us by purchasing a backpack or two to donate to the cause. School starts this year in July, so we need to get on the move! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Ward at 619.417.6912 or one of the Deacons.



JUNE



Sunday, June 16th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is 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
- 9:30 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, June 17th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for The Good News
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, June 18th

- 7:00 PM Session in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, June 19th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting Church Office will be closed during this time
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 20th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 6:30 PM Deacons in Jones Hall Library

Friday, June 21st

Saturday, June 22nd

Sunday, June 23rd

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is 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
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