



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

VBS Sunday

July 14, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



### PRELUDE

“Blessed Be the Name” (early American camp-meeting tune)	Henry Balcombe (1992)
“The Lord’s My Shepherd” (hymn tune of 1872)	Alan Smith (1962-2017)
“Praise Him! Praise Him!” (hymn tune of 1869)	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

\*\*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

This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all. (1 Timothy 2:3-6 NRSV)

### CHORAL INTROIT

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Italian Hymn

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Nick Koontz

(from Romans 12)

Leader: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**People: Let us not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

Leader: For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

**People: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #475 "Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" Nettleton

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

Lord Jesus, we come in gratitude to praise and honor you and the majesty of your works. On the way to our worship today, we were surrounded by the wonder and beauty of your creation. O Lord, may we have eyes and hearts that notice. Though we are sinners who fail and flail, yet we are welcome in the house of the Lord, where indeed, all are invited and welcomed by your mercy and grace. Holy God, our lives are filled with the blessings of abundance; may we be wise and faithful in how we use these lives and all that 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, O 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 "Lamb Of God" Agnus Dei  
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Gracious Lord, help us to unmask, and bring before you the truth of our lives as honestly as we can. O Lord, may we not waste the opportunity of this precious time before you, with lies, disguises, hypocrisies, or self-deceptions that hinder our chance to be healed. O Lord, bring to our minds the times when we have sinned and failed to follow you, so that we may confess and get out from under the burden of our fear and guilt. May we be transformed from our wayward ways by your loving mercy, restored, encouraged and equipped to live out our faith anew into this world so much in need.

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John and be comforted. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in me and in my love." Friends, believe the Good News, all our sins are forgiven.

**People: By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through the sacrifice of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to us?

**People: With the witness of Scripture and the Church through the ages we declare: Jesus Christ is the gracious mission of God to the world and for the world. He is the Emmanuel and Savior, One with the Father, God incarnate in Mary's son, Lord of all, the true human one. His coming transforms everything. His Lordship casts down every idolatrous claim to authority. His life shows what it means to be human. His atoning death reveals the depth of God's love for sinners. His bodily resurrection shatters the powers of sin and death. In the proclamation of the Word, the Spirit calls us to repentance, builds up and renews our life in Christ, strengthens our faith, empowers our service, gladdens our hearts and transforms our lives more fully into the image of Christ.<sup>1</sup>**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#625 "O Lord My God"

How Great Thou Art

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MUSIC

Rebekah West and Leah Mathe, Directors

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"  
Chancel Choir

Take Me As I Am

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Come! Live In the Light!"

We Are Called

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:3-14

Rev. Nick Koontz

Psalm 100 (New Revised Standard Version)

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<sup>1</sup> from Union in Christ: A declaration for the church by Mark Achtemeier and Andrew Purves, PC(USA), 1997.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	“What God has Always Wanted”	Rev. Norm Story
*CLOSING HYMN	#486 “Child Of Blessing, Child Of Promise”	Kingdom

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

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”	Sicilian Mariners
*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist- Rev. Nick Koontz    Deacon Captain-Karen Candusso  
Sound System-Jonathon West    Video-William Schroeder

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

Bill Akins-E    Chibuzo Chilaka-W    Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-S

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

Rev. Norm Story-E    Amon Taylor-W    Rev. Nick Koontz-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	Veronica Giron	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 Music & Worship.

**This coming Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, is Family Movie Night !  
Bring a blanket and enjoy some popcorn while we  
watch "Wish." Hope to see you all there !**



7/15 Marill Crouse    7/15 Amy Pleasant

7/16 Steve Harbaugh    7/18 Alex Burr

7/18 Steve Loman

7/18 Winnie Quinzi

7/18 James Rogge



*7/19 Lillian Brewer*

## **Please Remember in your Prayers**

- Linda Ward, our head of Deacons, for a quick and smooth recovery.
- Chase Hartung, Rich Lally and Ken Shannon.
- The Morales Family.
- Charlotte Brockway, who is recovering from a sprained shoulder.
- Mark Jenkins and Velma Harbaugh, who are currently hospitalized.
- Nolan, Nancy Cowan's sister-in-law's grandson, who has to continue radiation therapy for a year.
- Jonathon Francisco, Anya's father who is facing some health concerns

## **Continued Prayer List**

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



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](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.

## In the Life of the Church



*Thank You to everyone who attended VBS, and THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who made it possible and a HUGE success!! See you all next year!*



### Time is closing in for our students!

With school about to begin, we have many students and schools in need of school supplies. The Deacons have been collecting school supplies and will up until next week. If you would like to donate you can find a list of needed items in your Bulletin. Supplies can be dropped off at the church office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Nick Koontz.



### Backpacks!

### We're Still Collecting

The Deacons are still collecting backpacks and names of students who may need one. The kiddos can be from our church, the community, or someone you know that could use a little help this school year. We hope you will continue your generosity and assist us by purchasing a backpack or two to donate to the cause. We will be collecting backpacks until July 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Nick Koontz or one of our Deacons.

Blessing of the Backpacks will be on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>! Please be sure to invite anyone who would like to come out and have their backpacks and/or their supplies blessed.



## In-Betweeners

At 6 PM on our regular 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 7/26, we plan to get together in Watkins Fellowship Hall for dinner. The meal will be catered this time (cost, \$15/person). After dinner, we will be going to the Sanctuary for a short piano concert presented by Gustavo Morales, who artistry has been a fine addition to Sunday Worship for the last few months. Please let us know that you plan to attend by Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, by contacting the Ames at 575.526.3247 or [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com).



### Sunday, July 14th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing 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 After-Worship sermon discussion with Rev. Norm Story

### Monday, July 15th

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

### Tuesday, July 16th

### Wednesday, July 17th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, July 18th

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

### Friday, July 19th

- 4:00 PM Jean Wertz Service in the Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM Family Movie Night (see announcement)



**Saturday, July 20th**

**2:00 PM      A.B. Conrad Service in the Sanctuary**

**Sunday, July 21st**

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