



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

Dale Wood (1934-2003)

“We Are One in the Spirit”

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

“Jesus Meine Zuversicht” (Jesus, My Confidence) (17th-century chorale)

Anton Wilhelm Leupold (1867-1940)

****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

Clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:24, 32 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“God is Here Today”

Dios Esta Aqui

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim O’Neal

Leader: A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

(Prov. 15:1, 12:18)

People: I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. (Psa 141:1, 3)

Leader: Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Phil 4:8)

People: I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep a muzzle on my mouth. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

(Psa 39:1, 19:14)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#409 "God is Here!"

Abbot's Leigh

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

Lord of All, your love and your faithfulness are unending and sustain us in ways beyond our understanding. You care for us and hear our prayers, even when we are selfish, foolish, or muddle our words. You make things come out right even when we have given up in despair. How awesome and wise are your ways, O Lord! We thank you. Allow us to see you with the eyes of faith, and to hear with understanding what you say to us. Awaken in us a longing to do what is right. O may our focus be upon you, that we may find faith and life, healing and hope. **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, Have Mercy"

Kyrie Eleison

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Great God of wisdom, compassion, and power, we ask your forgiveness for the times when we have turned away from you and your claim upon our lives. Forgive us the times that we have not used the spiritual gifts and resources that you have given us, and for the times when we have ignored and neglected those who need us. We confess that too often, when we could glorify you and make a difference, we are fearful and choose not to obey and not to serve. You have called us to be your servants, yet we get so wrapped up in our own lives that we fail to reflect your compassion. We are not faithful with all our hearts, minds, and strength. In your mercy, forgive us and inspire us once again by your Holy Spirit, guiding us and giving us courage to serve with you faithfully in all that we say and do. Through Jesus we pray.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus 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 blood of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

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

People: Jesus said, 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' (John 13)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #519 "You are My Strength When I am Weak" Jernigan

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER #291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" Spirit

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Surely, It is God Who Saves Me" First Song

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Ephesians 4:1-6, 14-16 James 3:2-5, 10

Ephesians 4:1-6, 14-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

James 3:2-5, 10 (New Revised Standard Version)

For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of

horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Speaking the Truth in Love" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #317 "In Christ There is No East or West" McKee

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "You are My Strength When I am Weak" Jernigan

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Jim O'Neal Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Jonathon West Video-Will Schroeder*

Greeting before Worship Service:

Bob Distlehorst-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Kathleen Gardner-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Jim O'Neal-E Rev. Norm Story-W Debra Smith-S

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman	Com. Pastor, 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 the Burr Family.



*8/14 Sheena
MacDougall*



Please Remember in your Prayers

- *Barbara Wolflick, who is having some health issues.*
- *The students and teachers as they have begun the semester.*

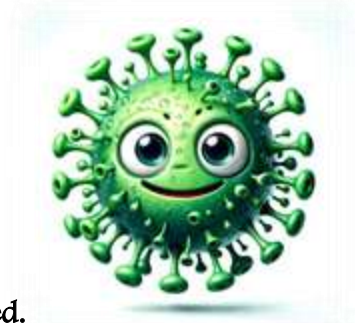
Continued Prayer List

Jack and Joyce Curry, who are at 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 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.

First Presbyterian Church
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88001
575.526.5559

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light

The fall semester is almost here and we still need volunteers!! Salt & Light will begin on Wednesday, September 4th. The kitchen crew volunteer sheets can be found in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. If you would like to volunteer during the semester in other areas during the semester please contact Veronica Giron at 575.405.4488 or Rev. Nick Koontz at 575.647.5910.

In-Betweeners

Our next get-together will be on Friday evening, August 23rd, at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall, so save the date!

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle co-chairs Cheri and Helen invite all members and any ladies new to our church family to come over to Helen's home on Tuesday, August 13th at 10:00 AM for a summer morning social of tea, coffee and treats. Let's get together and share our summer memories, and preview our September 10th Bible Study of Matthew.

Directions: South on Avenida de Mesilla, pass the Spotted Dog to Union Ave, turn west (right). Go about ¼ mile to Valdez Rd., turn left, go 500 feet to 2122 Salida del Sol Ct. The first home on left. Park by the garages or past the mailbox to other driveway. The front door is on this side.

Please RSVP by Monday. Questions, call Helen at 575.647.3365.



Sunday, August 11th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing and discussing the video series "The Chosen: Season Four" 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

Monday, August 12th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for The Good News
- 5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library

Tuesday, August 13th

- 10:00 AM Mary Martha Social at Helen Moser's House (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, August 14th

- 8:00 AM Soup Kitchen
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during this time
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

Thursday, August 15th

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

Friday, August 16th

Saturday, August 17th

Sunday, August 18th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing and discussing the video series "The Chosen: Season Four" in Jones Hall Library.
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
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