



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Carl Frank Meuller (1892-1982)

“Be Thou But Near”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God” (Alternate Tune)

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

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Jesus said, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." (John 12:35-36 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Worship the King”

Lyons

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Winnie Quinzi

(Isaiah 55)

Leader: Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

People: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Leader: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

People: So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #645 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Mit Freuden Zart

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

Holy God, you surprise us with new and unexpected experiences of your gracious love and blessings. We come with joy, gratitude, and reverence to praise and adore you. Help us to be more open to your presence among us and within us. May we be receptive to the power of your Holy Spirit, always firmly rooted in your word, and ever more attentive and eager to do your bidding. O God, Lord of all, we celebrate our relationship with you through Jesus Christ, and now in this time of worship and fellowship, may we be drawn deeper in our walk with you. Be near us, O Merciful One in Three and Three in One, in Jesus' name we 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 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" Restoration
Chancel Choir

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 and as we listen for your voice, faithfully respond.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News. Jesus died and rose again, overthrowing the powers of sin and death, and he did it for the sake of the world. We are enslaved no longer by the powers of darkness. We are set free to follow Jesus. Friends, believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

People: Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Leader: What is the process of grace and faith?

People: The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts; and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word: by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein.... But the principal acts of saving faith are, accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace. ¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #377 "I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light" Houston

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" Morecambe
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Pentecost

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Isaiah 51:1-4, 7-8, 12 Ephesians 5:8-11, 15-20 Rev. Nick Koontz

Isaiah 51:1-4, 7-8, 12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people who have my teaching in your hearts; do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my deliverance will be forever, and my salvation to all generations. I, I am he who comforts you; why then are you afraid of a mere mortal who must die, a human being who fades like grass?

Ephesians 5:8-11, 15-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out

¹ The Westminster Confession (England, 1646)

what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	“Things Are Different Now”	Rev. Norm Story
*CLOSING HYMN	#817 “We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight”	Dunlap’s Creek

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #288 “Spirit of the Living God” Living God

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist- Winnie Quinzi Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer*

*Greeting before Worship Service:
Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Linda Pearson-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Amon Taylor-E Winnie Quinzi-W Rev. Norm Story-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 our Deacons.



8/19 John Grant



8/20 Ralph Miller

8/24 Eric Burnham

Please Remember in your Prayers

- *Jim & Jacque Parks in the sudden passing of Liz, the wife of Joey.*
- *Kathleen Gardner's daughters, especially Madeleine who is beginning her first year of teaching.*
- *Barbara Wolflick, who is having 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; Marcus Burr, at the Village of Northrise; 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



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 begins on Wednesday, September 4th.

We invite you to join our journey as we begin teaching and leading our youth on being the Salt & Light of our world. Volunteers are needed for our kitchen crews and for our recreation time. If you are interested in being a part of our rewarding program, you can find our volunteer sign-up sheets in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. If you would like more information or would like to help out in other areas, please contact Veronica Giron at 575.405.4488 or Rev. Nick Koontz at 575.647.5910.



In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On Friday evening, August 23rd, we'll be getting together for a planned potluck dinner at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall; after dinner, our program will be another travel adventure with Lya and Jay Jordan. They'll be taking us along on their recent adventure traveling to Vietnam! Please let us know you plan to come by Monday, August 19th. Contact the Ames at 575.636.0210, or judithkames1@gmail.com.





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
- 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 19th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for The Good News

Tuesday, August 20th

Wednesday, August 21st

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

Thursday, August 22nd

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, August 23rd

- 6:00 PM In-Betweeners (see announcement)

Saturday, August 24th

Sunday, August 25th

- 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
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WELCOME BACK AGGIES!!

