



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Soldiers of Christ, Arise”

Joseph Prentiss (1996)

“Am I a Soldier of the Cross” (based on two early American hymn tunes)

G. Winston Cassler (1906-1990)

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

James Mansfield (1927-2018)

**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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Salt & Light

Rev. Nick Koontz

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David’s hand. (1 Samuel 17:44-45, 50 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Fight the Good Fight”

Duke Street

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gracia Class

(from Psalm 91)

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

People: For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Leader: You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

People: Because we have made the LORD our refuge, the Most High our dwelling place, no evil shall overcome us, no scourge come near our tent. For he will

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. Help us 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 #468 "In My Life, Lord" Lord, Be Glorified

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Chibuzo Chilaka

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Children Praying
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Do Not Be Afraid" Isaiah 43

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Exodus 14:10-14, 30-31 Ephesians 6:10-18, 23-24

Exodus 14:10-14, 30-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Ephesians 6:10-18, 23-24 (New Revised Standard Version)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the

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

heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Hope for When It Seems Hopeless" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #838 "Standing on the Promises" Promises

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Standing on the Promises" Promises

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist- Gracia Class Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

Greeting before Worship Service:

Rev. Nick Koontz-E Donna Phillips-W Veronica Giron-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Veronica Giron-E Rev. Norm Story-W Chibuzo Chilaka-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 Administration & Finance Committee.

8/25 Margaret Goehring 8/26 Dinah Jentgen

8/27 Janet Loman

8/27 Harry Topley

8/31 Roger Sellers



Please Remember in your Prayers

- *The churches of our Presbytery, may God continue to strengthen and support them.*
- *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.*
- *Those navigating and leading their families.*

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; Rev. 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

We're just one week away!!! Our 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.



Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle's first meeting for autumn will be held on September 10th, at 9:30 AM in the Jones Hall Library. All ladies are invited to attend as we begin our study of Matthew with Gracia Class leading.

Social time is at 9:30, and our Bible study begins at 10:00 AM. We look forward to welcoming you. For more information please call Co-Chairs Cheri McMillan 575.526.2395, or Helen Moser 575.647.3365.

August

Sunday, August 25th

- 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 26th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News

Tuesday, August 27th

Wednesday, August 28th

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

Thursday, August 29th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, August 30th

Saturday, August 31st

Sunday, September 1st

- 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
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