



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

September 1, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” (Early American hymn tune of 1825)

Hugh S. Livingston Jr. (1945-2014)

“At Thy Table”

Gerald Peterson (2004)

Partita on “Come, Labor On” (hymn tune of 1918)

Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

**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

Veronica Giron

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children nor straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom. AMEN."¹

CHORAL INTROIT

“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

Open the Eyes

Leah Mathe, Solo

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Montgomery

(Psalm 107)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

People: **Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

¹ Bishop Thomas Ken, 1637-1711 inscribed on the door of St. Stephen's Wallbrook, London.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#416 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Ein' Feste Burg

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Gracious Lord Jesus, we thank you for this time of worship; help us to open our hearts afresh to your great and amazing love. Help us also to open our minds to your word of truth. May your word for us be a comfort, guide, and when needed, a word of challenge and confrontation. Lord God, help us to open fully the doors of our church, that we would welcome the stranger, the wounded, the foreigner, the suffering, the immigrant, and the outcast. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to blossom and grow in your embracing love. May we in our worship truly celebrate your blessings and gifts, for these we thank you in the name of Jesus, amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

#416 "O Come unto the Lord"

Korea

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God and Father most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And as thou dost blot out our sins and stains, magnify and increase in us day by day the grace of thy Holy Spirit: that as we acknowledge our unrighteousness with all our heart, we may be moved by that sorrow which shall bring forth true repentance in us, mortifying all our sins and producing in us the fruits of righteousness and innocence which are pleasing unto thee.²

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: Hear the Good News, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

People: **"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation." Let us live new lives of Christian unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!**

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

People: **"Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."**

Matthew 22:37-40

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#729 "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian"

I Want To Be a Christian

² prayer by John Calvin, 1542

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”
Chancel Choir

Woodworth

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“In Remembrance”
Vicki Kuyper, Flute

Buryl Red

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 20-23

Dr. Janet Loman

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 20-23 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Distracted from What Matters Most”

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN

#494 “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

Quebec

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays on the west and south sides, plus the choir and the childcare workers. The east will continue with masks and distancing, and will continue to use the pre-packaged Communion kits. There will also be kits available at west and south doors for those wishing to continue with the kits.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" God Be With You
After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist- Eric Montgomery Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

*Greeting before Worship Service:
Patricia Adu-Mensah-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Eric Montgomery-E Debra Smith-W Veronica Giron-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 Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee

Please Remember in your Prayers

- *The churches of our Presbytery, may God continue to strengthen and support them.*
- *Norman Serrano, Morris Hardy, and Marty Pope.*
- *David, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- *Prayers for continued sanctification, that we may be transformed just as much as we are comforted by God's grace.*
- *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.

9/1 Corina Armendariz

9/3 Kate Puckett

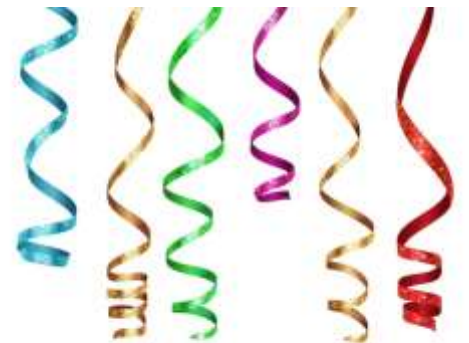
9/3 Gustavo Gomez



9/2 Ebenezer Tumban

9/3 Richard Myers

9/7 Sara Kay





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



Welcome back Y'all!! We're off and running! Wednesday, September 4th. Our lesson will be "A Mother's Prayer," the Story of Hannah. Dinner will be green chicken enchiladas, rice, salad, and mandarin oranges for dessert.



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.

Jennie Curry Bible Study

Jennie Curry Bible Study is studying Beth Moore's Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John. We will be meeting this coming Thursday, September 5th, at 6:30 PM in Jones Hall Library. If you would like more information, or have any questions, please get in



touch with Kathy Story via email at storyk@comcast.net.



September

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
- 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, September 2nd

Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

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

Tuesday, September 3rd

Wednesday, September 4th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during this time
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light after school ministry (see announcement)
- 5:30 PM Salt & Light for High School

Thursday, September 5th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 6:30 PM Jenny Curry in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)

Friday, September 6th

Saturday, September 7th

Sunday, September 8th

- 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