



Las Cruces, New Mexico
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 8, 2024 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” (early 18th-centrury chorale) Jeffrey Blersch (b. 1967)
“All Creatures of Our God and King” Donald Busarow (1934-2011)
“Help Us Accept Each Other” Emily Maxson Porter (b.1942)¹

**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

There is no principle of the heart that is more acceptable to God than a universal fervent love to all mankind, wishing and praying for their happiness-because there is no principle of the heart that makes us more like God, who is love and goodness itself and created all beings for their enjoyment of happiness. (William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, 1728)

CHORAL INTROIT

“God Welcomes All”

Themba Amen

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Montgomery

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Leader: Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;

People: Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

Leader: O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love;

People: For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#673 “Jesus, Light of Joy”

Lauda Anima

¹ [During the playing of the last prelude, which is a somewhat rhythmic, dissonant setting of this late 20th-century hymn, you might wish to turn to #754 in the hymnal and read its text.]

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

Lord God, you are our hope and power, delight and promise. We are grateful that in you all things are possible, and that you are our secure place amid storm and disaster. Teach us, O Lord, to turn to you first, that amid our choices and transitions in life, we seek your wisdom and will, and lean not on our own perception and understanding. May it be, Holy God, that we seek a more authentic and faithful walk with you above all else, and that we will see all of this mortal life as our opportunity to grow in our relationship with you. Please speak to us in our worship, and may it rightly honor your glory. **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

#422 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Create in Me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of love and tenderness, You call us from the chaos of our lives, just as we are. Embrace each of us now as we confess our sins. Forgive us for the opportunities we miss, for squandering our gifts, for wasting our time, and for simply being too busy and preoccupied to keep our focus on the things that really matter. Where we have fallen short of doing your will, forgive us. Where we have neglected those in need, forgive us. Where we have been selfish and hurt other people, forgive us. By your mercy and grace, lead us to live in ways that more faithfully reflect your steadfast loving kindness.

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: Who is Jesus Christ and what does that mean for us?

People: **Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful**

deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.²

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #628 "Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord" Je Loueral L'eternal

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" Hear My Prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Come To Me All Who Labor" John Purifoy

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-11, 17-18 James 2:1-9 Dr. Janet Loman
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-11, 17-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

James 2:1-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law

² THE THEOLOGICAL DECLARATION OF BARMEN, 1933, In view of the errors of the "German Christians" of the present Reich Church government which are devastating the church and are also thereby breaking up the unity of the German Evangelical Church, we confess the following evangelical truths: 1. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:6.) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. . . . I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved." (John 10:1, 9)

according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Way We Choose to Respond" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #741 "Guide My Feet" Guide My Feet

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "You Shall Go Out With Joy" The Tress of The Field

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist- Eric Montgomery Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Jonathon West Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting before Worship Service:
Robert Distlehorst-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Linda Pearson-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Erin Taylor-E Rev. Norm Story-W Eric Montgomery-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 Director
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 Music & Worship Committee.

Please Remember in your Prayers

- *Sara Kay, who is anticipating surgery.*
- *The West family as they welcome their new son.*
- *Norman Serrano, Morris Hardy, and Marty Pope.*
- *David, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- *Prayers for Laura.*



Continued Prayer List

Jack and Joyce Curry, who are at home; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; Arnold McMillan; Jeremy Borchert; Millie Conrad; Rev. Marcus Burr, at the Village of Northrise; Dorris Hamilton, Mel Parish, and Ann Miller at The Heritage



9/8 Janet Lemon

9/9 Linda Ramirez

9/10 Mike McClanahan

9/11 Rev. Jay Bishop

9/12 Bea Connor



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

Wednesday, September 11th, we'll "Hang Ten for Jesus." Dinner will be spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad and chocolate pudding 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.

Join Jennie Curry Bible Study and Discover the Heart of Jesus

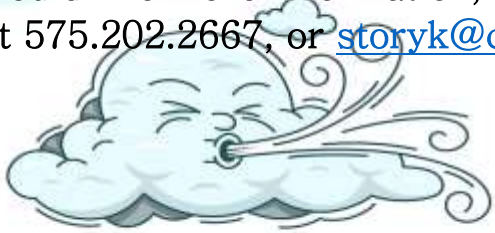


At 6:30 PM, Thursday, October 3rd, the women of Jennie Curry Bible Study will delve into the lessons of John's first, second, and third letters. Kelly Minter's relational approach to the study enhances *What Love Is*. A study that promises to not only to reveal the heart of John, but also deepen our understanding of the heart of Jesus.

The Letters of 1, 2, and 3 John

- Encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth.
- Challenge believers to consider the contrasting theme.
- Walking in the light instead of darkness.
- Truth versus lies and deception.
- Loving God more than loving the world.
- The meaning of true fellowship and community rather than shallowness.

We invite all women who share a love of God and Scripture to join us. If you would like more information, or have any questions, please contact Kathy Story at 575.202.2667, or storyk@comcast.net.



September

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

Monday, September 9th

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

Tuesday, September 10th

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, September 11th

- 8:00 AM Serve with us at the Soup Kitchen
- 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
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 12th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, September 13th

Saturday, September 14th

Sunday, September 15th

- 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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