



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

James Denton(1916-1999)

“More Holiness Give Me” (mid 19th-century hymn)

Roger C. Wilson (1912-1988)

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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. 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, 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. (Isaiah 55:8-11 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Royal Oak

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kileigh Higgenbotham

(from Psalm 147)

Leader: Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD gathers the outcasts. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

People: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. The Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Leader: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

People: **Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#804 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

Marion

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

Thank you! Everything in me says "Thank you!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks. I kneel in worship facing your holy temple and say it again: "Thank you!" Thank you for your love, thank you for your faithfulness; most holy is your name, most holy is your Word. The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength. When they hear what you have to say, God, all earth's kings will say "Thank you." They'll sing of what you've done: "How great the glory of God!" When I walk into the thick of trouble, keep me alive in the angry turmoil. With your hand you save me, finish what you started in me, God. Your love is eternal.^[1] **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)

God of majesty, you have given us your words of eternal life. Forgive us for taking too lightly this gift; for hearing your word, but not obeying your will; for treating your word as just one among many; for choosing that which pleases us and ignoring that which challenges us; for allowing the noise of our busy lives to distract us from your loving voice; for keeping silent instead of shouting aloud the truth of your rule and the wonder of your love. For these and all our sins against your will, forgive us, O God, we pray. From your boundless grace, grant us the power to live new lives, lived according to your will and purpose. May we be more responsive to your living Word in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel; that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. In Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

People: **Through Jesus we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: What do you mean when you speak of "the forgiveness of sins"?¹

People: **Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has**

^[1] Psalm 138, *The Message*

¹ Question #62, *The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*, Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #726 "Will You Come and Follow Me" Kevin Grove

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER "O Jesus, I Have Promised" Angel's Story
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Allen Pote

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Joshua 24:1, 14-17, 19, 21-24 Mark 8:27-37 Dr. Janet Loman
Joshua 24:1, 14-17, 19, 21-24 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey."

Mark 8:27-37 (New Revised Standard Version)

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and

be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "In Sincerity and in Faithfulness" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Faithfulness

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Faithfulness

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist- Kileigh Higginbotham Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

Greeting before Worship Service:

Donna Phillips-E Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-W Rev. Nick Koontz-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Amon Taylor-E Kileigh Higginbotham-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 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 Christian Education.

Please Remember in your Prayers

- Greg Sherman Jr. as he travels for business to Australia, Japan, and Malaysia.
- Joe White's family, in the passing of his mother.
- Sara Kay, who is in Phoenix anticipating surgery. Phone calls welcome.
- The West family as they welcome their new son.
- David, who is recovering from a stroke.



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.

9/15 Heather Spencer

9/16 Will Schroeder

9/16 Mel Parish

9/20 Sharon Rooney



9/15 Penelope Printz

9/16 Brian Otto

9/16 Elsa Aninwaa Korang

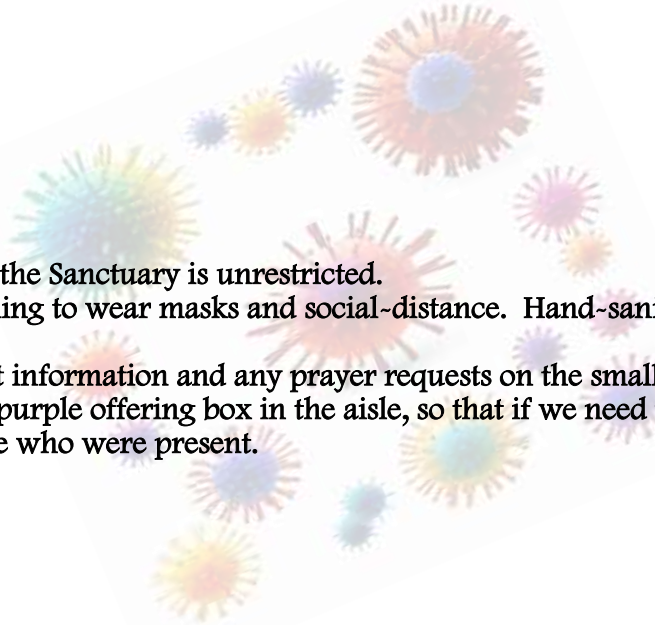
9/21 Olivier Huebo





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 18th, “God reigns and the Son Shines.”
It’s Tom’s Pizza Night! Dinner will be pizza, salad with dressing
and Jell-O cups for dessert.



Salt & Light dinners on Wednesday evenings welcome all guests! Informing the church office by Monday that you will be coming is requested, and donations are accepted.

Jennie Curry Bible Study

The women of the Jennie Curry Bible Study invite you to join them for their potluck dinner in Jones Hall, on Thursday, October 3rd, at 6:30 PM.

This is a great opportunity to meet others and share the love of God and Scripture. If you would like more information, or have any questions, please contact Kathy Story at 575.202.2667, or storyk@comcast.net.

In-Betweeners Save the Date!



Our next get-together is scheduled for Friday, September 27th, in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. We’ll have a catered dinner this time. For more information about the group, please call the Ames at 575-636-0210, or Email jkames@q.com.



The Church Yard Sale is Saturday, September 21st, from 8 AM-2 PM. Donations are being accepted during church office hours; all proceeds go to youth ministries.

September

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
11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall (see announcement)
12:00 PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story

Monday, September 16th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
2:30 PM Storytellers of Las Cruces in Jones Hall
7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 17th

- 7:00 PM Session in Jones Hall

Wednesday, September 18th

- 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 19th

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

Friday, September 20th

Saturday, September 21st

- 8AM-2PM Church Yard Sale (see announcement)

Sunday, September 22nd

- 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