



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism
September 22, 2024 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“The Light of the World Is Jesus” Richard Miles (1996)
“Come, Come, Ye Children of God” Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
“Love Consecrates the Humblest Act” (hymn tune from 1812) Michael Burkhardt (b.1957)

**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 in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26-28 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather” Tokyo
Leah Mathe, Solo

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP Winnie Quinzi
(from Philippians 2)

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
People: **who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

Leader: And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

People: so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #643 "Now Thank We All Our God" Nun Danket Alle Gott

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

Lord God, you who are Creator of the Universe and the Power behind all powers, we gather today as your people to praise you, and to hear your word, and to pray that your truth might guide us in our every action and thought. Help us come from our scattered lives to focus on your eternal truth. Assure us once more of your divine control over all things; help us to surrender ourselves completely into your loving care and to follow your path of holy obedience and joy. Be present with us and bless us, we ask in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to 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 "Lamb of God" Agnus Dei
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Gracious Lord, help us to unmask, and bring before you the truth of our lives as honestly as we can. O Lord, may we not waste the opportunity of this precious time before you with lies, disguises, hypocrisies, or self-deceptions that hinder our chance to be healed. O Lord, bring to our minds where we have sinned and failed to follow you that we may confess and get out from under the burden and our fear and guilt. May we be transformed from our wayward ways by your loving mercy, restored, encouraged, and equipped to live out our faith anew into this world so much in need.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: We read in First John, "and this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is God's promise, that through Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

People: "If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: How is baptism a sign and seal of God's gracious love?

People: **Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, not only for the solemn admission of the party baptized into the visible Church, but also to be unto him a sign and seal of the covenant of grace, of his ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of his giving up unto God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life: which sacrament is, by Christ's own appointment, to be continued in his church until the end of the world. The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water, wherewith the party is to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The sacrament of Baptism is but once to be administered to any person.¹**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" Stories of Jesus

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Nick Koontz
Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Anya Francisco
(daughter of Kristina and Johnathan Francisco)

CALL TO PRAYER #482 "Baptized in Water" Bunessan

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "I Will Sing with the Spirit" John Rutter

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Deuteronomy 7:6-9 Mark 9:30-37 Dr. Janet Loman
Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession. It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you—for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

¹ Westminster Confession of Faith, 1646.

Mark 9:30-37 (New Revised Standard Version)

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Called to See the Invisible" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #744 "Arise, Your Light is Come" Festal Song

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Amen" Amen

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Winnie Quinzi Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

Greeting before Worship Service:

Donna Phillips-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story-E Veronica Giron-W Rev. Nick Koontz-S

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 Administration & Finance Committee.

Please Remember in your Prayers

- David, brother of Bea and Carl, who is doing well.
- Bill Kuyper's son Ed and his family.
- Brooke Montgomery
- Marty Pope and Jim Pace.
- Safe travels for Evangeline Acosta and Tina as they travel to Taiwan and Japan.
- Greg Sherman Jr. as he travels for business to Australia, Japan, and Malaysia.
- Sara Kay, who is in Phoenix recovering from surgery. Phone calls welcome.
- The West family as they welcome their new son.



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.

9/21 Olivier
Heubo



9/20 Sharon
Rooney

9/23 Rosa
Taylor



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

Salt & Light will return on Wednesday, October 9th, at 4:00 P.M. Have a fun and safe Fall Break!



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 from Lorenzo's at a cost of \$15 per person. Please let us know you'll be coming by Monday, September 23rd. Call the Ames at 575-636-0210, or Email jkames@q.com.

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.



The Church Yard Sale is Saturday, September 28th, from 8 AM-2 PM. Donations are being

accepted during church office hours; all
proceeds go to youth ministries.

September



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

Monday, September 23rd

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

Tuesday, September 24th

Wednesday, September 25th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during this time
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 26th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, September 27th

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

Saturday, September 28th

Sunday, September 29th

- 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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- 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary
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