



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Bible Presentation Sunday

September 29, 2024 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“Autumn Meditation”

David Lasky (b. 1957)

Trio on “Trust and Obey”

Timothy Nelson (b.1952)

“Larghetto: Sonata 1 for 2 flutes”

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach

“Sonata in F Major for 2 Treble Recorders”

Allegro from Jean Baptiste Loeillet de Gant

Vicki Kuyper, Flute; Holly Dalager, Oboe

\*\*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

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. (1 Corinthians 1:9-10 NRSV)

### CHORAL INTROIT

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

I Want to Be a Christian

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Maley

(Psalm 119)

Leader: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

**People: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.**

Leader: Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

**People:** Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise. I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes. My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Hymn To Joy

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

Most holy God of love, we draw near to you with hope and encouragement because of who you are. You have shown us your love, wisdom, power, and goodness in all your works, and have revealed your truth in the words of Holy Scripture. We thank you for our Bible; its words enlighten our darkness, and enable our spirits to soar, embracing the depths of your love. You have caused the inspired words of Scripture to be preserved, translated, published, and multiplied so that all may find your truth within. We pray that, through our worship, we will be open to your Word and Spirit. May we be equipped to lead more faithful and useful lives according to your will and purpose. **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

#432 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

Repton

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and caused, for the wounds we have inflicted. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have failed to live out your compassion and light to others. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe your promises. May we be open to a vision of new possibilities and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truthfulness. Holy Jesus, our living hope, may we become more and more responsive to your grace and to your call. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

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:** **Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.**

**Leader:** What is our only comfort, in life and in death?

**People: That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. (The Heidelberg Catechism of 1563)**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #762 “When the Poor Ones” El Camino

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Story

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

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Halie Dalager Kaya Dalager Kendall Montgomery

CALL TO PRAYER “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” I Want to Be a Christian

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “How Can I Keep from Singing” Taylor Davis  
Vicki Kuper, Flute; Holly Dalager, Oboe

### **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Romans 14:1-8, 10, 13 Mark 9:38-42 Dr. Janet Loman  
Romans 14:1-8, 10, 13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another.

Mark 9:38-42 (New Revised Standard Version)

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Deeply Committed, but Different” Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #316 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” Twenty-Fourth

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Amen” Dresden Amen

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Mary Maley Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh  
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer*

*Greeting before Worship Service:  
Robert Distlehorst-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Patricia Adu-Mensah-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:  
Rev. Nick Koontz-E Mary Maley-W Rev. Norm Story-S*

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**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 Mary Martha Circle. (see announcement)*



### *Please Remember in your Prayers*

- Sara Kay who did well in her surgery.
- Donna Marconi, as she prepares for foot surgery.
- 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.
- 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; Nancy Cowan's sister in-law; Mary Olberg; Millie Conrad; Rev. Marcus Burr, at the Village of Northrise; Dorris Hamilton, Mel Parish, and Ann Miller at The Heritage.*

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

9/29 Cynthia Watkins

9/29 Linda Pearson

9/30 Marsha Topley

10/1 Sarah Loman

10/2 Pat Felhauer

10/3 Izak Armendariz





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**



### *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 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 P.M. 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](mailto:storyk@comcast.net).*

### **Mary Martha Circle**

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM to socialize with our friends and guests. Our Bible Study will begin at 10:00 AM. We will be studying the book of Matthew, Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8.

We look forward to seeing in Jones Hall Library!

### **Adult Sunday School**

**We will finish "The Chosen" Season 4 on October 6<sup>th</sup> with the 8<sup>th</sup> episode. We will begin a new video series, "The Gospel of Matthew" by Ben Witherington III, on October 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be 8 weeks long.**

**There will be no Adult Sunday School on October 27<sup>th</sup> due to work travel.**

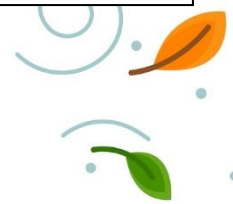




## *You Are Invited!*

*Please come to after-Worship Fellowship  
this Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
honoring Rev. Norm and Kathy Story  
in celebration of their 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
of their coming to our church.  
Hosting: Mary Martha Circle*

# September



### Sunday, September 29th

- 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 30th

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

### Tuesday, October 1st

### Wednesday, October 2nd

- 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, October 3rd

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



Friday, October 4th

Saturday, October 5th

Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

## **World Communion Sunday**

- 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**