



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Reformation Sunday

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 27, 2024 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“I Believe in Miracles” (by John W. Peterson, 1956)

setting by Gregg Sewell (b. 1953)

“Air from the unfinished oratorio *Lazarus*”

Franz Shubert (1797-1828)

“Concerto for Two Trumpets”

Antonio Vivaldi

Allegro

Jacob Dalager and Paul McLaughlin, Trumpets; Gustavo Morales, Piano

\*\*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

STEWARDSHIP

Music & Worship

Roni Hardin

### MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:1, 16 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Built on the Rock”

Gordon Young

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Green

(Psalm 95)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God.**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**People: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today we would listen to his voice!**

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

O Lord our God, together we are your people who have come in need today. We worship not because we are good, holy, and faithful, but because you are merciful and loving. By your Holy Spirit, allow us in this time of worship to catch a glimpse of your glory and greatness. Today may our hearts soar in the sure knowledge of your gracious love for us. We are grateful that you do care about our lives and concerns. Help us, we pray, to be a people of diligent faith and service. May this church, this community of grace, be more and more faithful and useful in fulfilling our mission to our world and community. We ask through Christ Jesus our Lord, 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

#795 "Healer of Our Every Ill"

Healer of Our Every Ill

Choral Scholars to sing verses; Congregation to sing refrain

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Leader:** We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,<sup>2</sup> the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.<sup>3</sup>

**People:** **We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.**<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> prayer by John Calvin, 1542

<sup>2</sup> The Nicene Creed

<sup>3</sup> The Apostles' Creed, 2.3.

<sup>4</sup> The Scots Confession, 3.01.



man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "What is Your God Really Like?" Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #450 "Be Thou My Vision" Slane

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Built on the Rock" Gordon Young

\*POSTLUDE "Concerto for Two Trumpets" Antonio Vivaldi J  
Largo  
Jacob Dalager and Paul McLaughlin, Trumpets

Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Janet Green Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh  
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

*Greeting before Worship Service:  
Bob Distlehorst-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Chibuzo Chilaka-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:  
Debra Smith-E Rev. Norm Story-W Janet Green-S*

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## **Fellowship**

*The Deacons would like to invite you all to our Annual Hamburger Fry today after Worship. It will be held in Watkins Hall. We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, beans, chips, coleslaw, and dessert. This is our only source of funding for our ministries that support our community and church projects. Please join us and help us*



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On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg to raise questions about the teaching of the church in his time and look to the Bible for the answers. Though it was not something he planned, it became the beginning of a revolution—one that John Calvin and John Knox continued, and many others followed. The Bible proclaims salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ alone to the Glory of God. These are the five main points of the Reformation, or the Five Solas:

**Sola Gratia (Grace Alone):** God is motivated to save us by His own love and grace, not by our merits. His heart is for us and His unconditional love is what causes Him to extend to us the free gift of salvation.

**Solus Christus (Christ Alone):** Jesus is the only mediator between God and humankind. We need no priesthood to connect us with God, only Jesus and His own Spirit in us.

**Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone):** How do we know what is true, especially about the character of God and our relationship with Him? The inspired Word of God reveals it. The Word has authority to correct tradition, churches, church councils and all leaders.

**Sola Fide (Faith Alone):** We are saved by faith, not by works. Our salvation depends on our faith in Christ and what He has done, not on anything we do. Our only work is to believe.

**Soli Deo Gloria (To God’s Glory Alone):** We live into the great affirmation of the Westminster Catechism, “the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” All we do as followers of Jesus—and as His church—is to bring glory to God alone.

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10/30 Bruce Pearson

10/30 Holly Dalager



11/1 Iain Christopher Deason

## *Please Remember in your Prayers*

- *Prayers of safe travels for Karen Harbough and Doug Muscanell.*
- *Melissa Sherman and Heidi Harbaugh.*
- *Prayers for Marly, sister-in-law to Paul and Verna Green, as she navigates health concerns.*
- *Prayers for comfort and peace for Barb Wolflick.*
- *Karen and Barry Sullivan.*
- *Prayers for the ministries of FPC, and especially Salt and Light, that they would be as successful quantitatively as they are qualitatively in the lives of those involved! May God enable us to reach out to others and include them in Christian community.*

## *Continued Prayer List*

*Sara Kay; 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.*

## *Welcome!*

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](http://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](http://fpc.lc)

**Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.**

# *In the Life of the Church*

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.



## Salt & Light

On Wednesday, October 30th, our theme is *Shine the Light for Jesus*. Dinner will be hot dogs, potato chips, and ice cream sandwiches for dessert.

## Advent Devotionals

We are collecting daily devotionals for our advent booklet. Please consider writing one to three short paragraphs on an Advent/Christmas-related Scripture and submitting it to [nkoontz@fpc.lc](mailto:nkoontz@fpc.lc) for inclusion. A list of suggested Scriptures is available upon request.



Trunk or Treat is here!  
We're still in need of candy  
donations for our Trunk or Treat!  
We hope to see you all Thursday night!





Sunday, October 27th

- 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School, Reformation study in Jones Hall Library with Rev. Nick Koontz (see announcement)  
9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall  
9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall (see announcement)  
9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall (see announcement)  
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)

Monday, October 28th

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

Tuesday, October 29th

Wednesday, October 30th

- 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 (see announcement)  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 31st

**TRUNCK OR TREAT**

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, November 1st

Saturday, November 2nd

Sunday, November 3rd

- 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School, Reformation study in Jones Hall Library with Rev. Nick Koontz (see announcement)  
9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall  
9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall (see announcement)  
9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall (see announcement)  
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