



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
26th Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving In-Gathering¹
November 17, 2024 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Les Moissonneurs” (The Harvesters) Francis Couperin (1668-1733)
Arranged by Jacques-Louis de Champd’homme, 1994
“The Cheerful Giver” Edmund Simon Lorenz (1854-1942)
“Grazioso and Allegro from Sonata No. 4 Op. 2” G.P. Telemann
Vicki Kuper, Flute and 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

STEWARDSHIP Finance and Administration James O’Neal

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all—life healed and whole. (1 Peter 1:3-4 *The Message*)

CHORAL INTROIT “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” Thankful Hearts

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Divine Mboh

¹ During the singing of the Hymn of Assurance, you are invited to come forward to place your food offerings in the baskets on the Chancel. These gifts will be used to continue our support of the Casa de Peregrinos Food Pantry.

(Psalm 89)

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

People: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #645 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Mit Freuden Zart

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal and ever-blessed God, the same yesterday, today, and forever, we rejoice in the order and goodness of your creation. Let the light of your love shine into our hearts and bless our worship, transforming it from its imperfections to an offering acceptable to you. Help us see new glory in the things we take for granted, and lead us to praise you with our whole being. May your joy be in our hearts and your love in our fellowship. Praying as you taught your 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 #422 "Create in Me a Clean Heart" Create in Me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O Lord God, there is no blessing we could ask but that you are able to give, have promised to give, and have already given to countless multitudes, all unworthy and guilty like us. Help us to be more able to receive your mercy and grace. May we be conscious of our sin. Soften our hearts to bewail our folly, ingratitude, pride, unbelief, rebellion, and corruption. Give us hope against our guilt and shame, a love that excites toward holy obedience, a joy that is our strength, and faith in your Son, who loves us and died for us. Help us to be humble in our need for your mercy and grace, and strive to live continually as on the brink of eternity.²

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

² from *The Valley of Vision, A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, edited by Arthur Bennett, 1975.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, in Jesus Christ, all our sin is forgiven.

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

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

People: We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now, he is Lord!³

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #384 "Soon and Very Soon" Soon and Very Soon
Chancel Choir to sing verse 1; Congregation to sing verses 2-4

At this time, you are invited to come forward to place your food offerings in the baskets on the Chancel. These gifts will be used to continue our support of the Casa de Peregrinos Food Pantry.

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Judith Ames

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

CALL TO PRAYER #468 "In My Life" Lord, Be Glorified
Congregation to sing verses 1, 2 and 4
Chancel Choir to sing verse 3

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him" Arr. Lloyd Larson
Vicki Kuyper, Flute and Holly Dalager, Oboe

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

³ from *A Declaration of Faith*, 177th General Assembly (PCUS, 1977).

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Joshua1:1-2, 5-9 Mark 13:1-8, 32-33 Dr. Janet
LomanJoshua 1:1-2, 5-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Mark 13:1-8, 32-33 (New Revised Standard Version)

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth-pangs. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Proceed for I am With You Always" Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN #546 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" Sicilian Mariners

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him” Arr. Lloyd Larson

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Divine Mboh Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer*

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

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Divine Mboh-E Rev. Norm Story-W Judith Ames-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 the Deacons.



11-17 Tom Morehart

11-18 Stephen Taylor

11-19 Ruth Ward



11-19 Ann Miller

11-20 Carol Goss

11-23 Valencia Owens



Please Remember in your Prayers

- *The Inocencio Family.*
- *Tracy Howard and Ken Osborne, as they're both navigating through some health concerns.*
- *Sandra Valencia as she settles into her new home in Portales.*
- *Ryan Roegge, who is traveling this week.*
- *Prayers for comfort and peace for Barb Wolflick.*

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 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

*thank
you*

Thank you 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 – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

In the Life of the Church



PIZZA MASTERS

Salt & Light

On Wednesday, November 20th, our theme is *Count your Blessings*. Dinner will be pizza, salad with ranch dressing, and cookies 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 for inclusion. A list of suggested Scriptures is available upon request.



November

Sunday, November 17th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing and discussing the video series "The Gospel of Matthew" in Jones Hall Library
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones 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, November 18th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 3:00 PM Storytellers of Las Cruces in Jones Hall Library
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, November 19th

- 7:00 PM Session meeting in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, November 20th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during this time
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21st

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

Friday, November 22nd

Saturday, November 23rd

Sunday, November 24th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing and discussing the video series "The Gospel of Matthew" in Jones Hall Library
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall
- 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary
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