



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Communion Sunday

December 1, 2024 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“Communion”

Aloys Clausmann (1850-1926)

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

“Behold, the Days Come,” from *The Story of Christmas*

H. Alexander Matthews (1979-1973)

*“Behold, the days come,” saith the Lord, “that I will raise unto David a righteous branch; and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice on the earth...”*

\*\*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

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. . . I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.” (Jeremiah 33: 14-16)

### CHORAL INTROIT

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Conditor Alme Siderum

Leah Mathe

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Larry Hicks

(Psalm 25: 1-10)

Leader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

**People: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

**People: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

#86 “The People Who Walked in Darkness”

Isaiah 9

Choral Scholars sing verses  
Congregation sing refrain

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)**

Lord, what a blessed and yet tiring time this is for your people. Be with each of us as we walk through these days of Advent and with those whom you have placed into our care. Give us both rest and strength to help others wait for, long for, and anticipate the peace, hope, joy, and love that only the arrival of Jesus can bring. Place within us a sweet longing and anticipation in our own Advent waiting. Open the hearts of all, so that they might hear your promises spoken through the words of your prophets of old and heard by your servants now. Open the eyes of all souls so that they might see the Light that grows ever stronger as the days draw nearer to your Promise-On-Earth. Amen.

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

#91 "Come, Come Emmanuel"

Come, Come Emmanuel

Choral Scholars and Congregation

Solos on "Lord have mercy..."

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

Lord God, we are yours, yet we do not always live fully as yours. We compartmentalize our lives, giving some parts to you, but reserving others for ourselves. In our relationships, our speech, our choices of entertainment, we often use our own judgment and act on our own preferences, without consulting you through prayer and Scripture. We confess that you are our God, yet not always Lord of our thoughts, words, and actions. Help us seek and attend to the guidance of your Holy Spirit in all things; be Lord of our lives, of our whole selves. Help us to hold high the light of Christ's hope, as a beacon to bring the world out of darkness.

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY**

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

**People: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation."**

Leader: I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

**People: Let us live new lives of Christian discipleship, unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!**

**INVITATION TO ADVENT**

Please sing to the tune of "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*Kindle this flame of peace.  
May it burn bright and true.*

*Lighting the way that is of God;  
the journey we pursue.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brewer Family

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Please sing to the tune of "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*God's realm is our desire  
Where peace and justice reign.  
Heaven and earth combined as one,  
when Christ shall come again.*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#96 "On Jordan's Bank"

Winchester New

Chancel Choir sings verse 1 and Congregation to join in on verse 2-4

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#89 "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits"

My Soul Waits

Choral Scholars will sing verses 1, 2, & 5

Congregation to sing refrain

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

Annunciation

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21: 25-28 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Dr. Janet Loman

Luke 21: 25-28 (New Revised Standard Version)

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus

with all his saints.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Walking in the Light of Darkness" Dr. Janet Loman

\*COMMUNION HYMN #497 "Bread of Life from Heaven" Argentine Santo  
Choral Scholars will sing verses 1, 2, & 5  
Congregation to sing refrain

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

**...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**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "While We Are Waiting, Come" Waiting

*After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.*

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Rev. Larry Hicks Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah*

*Sound System-Curtis Benaway Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Patricia Adu-Mensah-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Rev. Nick Koontz-E Amon Taylor -W Veronica Giron-S*

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Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Loman Com. Pastor, College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck		Dr. Janet
Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor	Veronica Giron	Organist
Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor	Shernel Berteau	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Youth Group Sponsor
Rev. Nick Koontz	Dir. of Family Ministries	Cat Munoz	Secretary
			Bookkeeper

*Please remember in your Prayers*

- *Tracy Howard and Ken Osborne, as they're both navigating through some health concerns.*
- *Karen Sullivan who is at Mountain View.*
- *Brad Class who is at Mountain View.*
- *Prayers Josie Fietze who will be having surgery.*

*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.*

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12/1 Carol Bott 12/2 Jean Bernard Nganou

12/6 Mary Ferguson



12/6 Susan Trumble

12/7 Kelly Temple

**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 In-Betweeners.

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## *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:



- Cash or check in the purple offering box.
- Check sent by mail.
- Online at [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
- Using the app “Church Center”.
- 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.

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*

### Salt & Light

“Watch and Wait for Jesus” – Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, dinner will be tater tot casserole, green beans with bacon, rolls with butter, and ice cream for dessert.

### *Jennie Curry Bible Study*



*Jennie Curry Bible Study will be meeting this coming Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in Jones Hall Library. If you would like more information or have any questions, please reach out to Kathy Story at [storyk@comcast.net](mailto:storyk@comcast.net).*

### Mary Martha Circle



Mary Martha Circle will have their annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM, at the Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road, off Roadrunner Road. Please RSVP by Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, with Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395, or with Helen Moser, 575.647.3365, [helensantafe@hughes.net](mailto:helensantafe@hughes.net). Please bring any books that you'd like to donate to The Children's Reading Alliance. Monetary donations for the NMSU Aggie Food Pantry will also be taken at this time. We look forward to gathering together and celebrating this special season of our Lord's birth.

**In-Betweeners Coming Up!**



On Friday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>, our annual Christmas Carol sing is planned for 6 PM in Watkins Hall. Dinner will be catered by Pastaggio's at \$15/person. After dinner, we'll enjoy special music from the Kuypers. Happily, Leah Mathe has agreed to lead carols, and Howard Smolleck will accompany. Please let us know that you'll be coming by Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Ames at [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com), or 575.526.3247, or just catch us after Worship.

## Christmas Food Baskets



It's that time of the year again. The Deacons are providing Christmas baskets for those who could use some help this year. Our baskets contain a turkey and other goodies for several meals for a family. If you know of someone in the church or anyone in the community who could use a little gift of help, please let Linda Ward know. I will need their name, address, phone number, and the number of people in their family. We are hoping to distribute the baskets on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. If someone cannot come and pick up their basket, we will deliver. Let me know by email: [lrwardps@gmail.com](mailto:lrwardps@gmail.com) or give the information to any Deacon. Thank you!




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### Sunday, December 1st

- 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)

**Monday, December 2nd**

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

**Tuesday, December 3rd**

**Wednesday, December 4th**

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during meeting
- 12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light *"Watch and Wait for Jesus"*
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

**Thursday, December 5th**

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 6:00 PM Camino Middle School Concert



6:30 PM Jennie Curry in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)

**Friday, December 6th**

Office Closed

**Saturday, December 7th**

**Sunday, December 8th**

- 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
- 12:00 PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story