

First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
December 15, 2024 - 10:30 A.M
3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy
Choral Cantata

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (Swedish folk tune)

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

“Sing We All at Christmas”

Robert Allan Roesch (1943-2009)

“Joy to the World” (incorporating a theme by Handel)

Emma Louise Ashford (1850-1937)

**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

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. (Psalm 89:1-2 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Sussex Carol

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim O’Neal

(Ezekiel 34)

Leader: For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

People: **I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.**

Leader: I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

People: **I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the**

injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

HYMN OF PRAISE

#140 "Once in Royal David's City"
Jacob Dalager, Trumpet

Arr. Jay Althouse

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for all your gifts and blessings. We celebrate this day, that we are your beloved children, and that you sent your Son, Jesus, the Light of the world, to overcome the dark places in our lives and in our world. We thank you for the language of music with its power to speak beyond words, and may we hear your message this day. Almighty God, in accord with your will and purpose, draw us more deeply into your holy and wonderful presence. Praying as Jesus taught his disciples, **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

#88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Please sing verses 5 & 6

Veni Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God, forgive us. In this season of anticipation, the voices of advertisers and culture compete for our attention, drowning out your voice. We busy ourselves with tasks we think we're supposed to do and neglect those things we ought to do. Those things you call us to do, we do grudgingly and without joy. We lack the generous spirit of Mary, who heard your call and assented without question. Instead of feeling put upon, she lifted her voice in a song of honor and wonder. Renew our spirits. Fill our hearts with joy and song so others see in us the grace and mercy you have given us through your Son. Instill in us a spirit of gratitude. Open our eyes and ears, and prepare our hearts to receive Jesus, the most precious gift of all.

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!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#110 "Love Has Come"

Bring A Torch

INVITATION TO ADVENT

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

*Kindle this flame of joy.
May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God;
the journey we pursue.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Taylor 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.*

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“He Came Down”
Chancel Choir

He Came Down

PASTORAL PRAYER

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD THROUGH MUSIC



#133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Arr. Kevin McChesney

Congregation to sing verses 1, 2, and 4

Chancel Choir to sing verse 3

Jacob Dalager, Trumpet

Bells Of Praise

"Fear Not"

Jacob Dalager

Sarah Neely, Soprano

Nancy Joy, Horn

Gustavo Morales, Organ

"In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S Bach

Gustavo Morales, Organ

“Christmas Day”

Gustav Holst

Chancel Choir
Diana Gutierrez, Soprano
Leah Mathe, Mezzo Soprano
Jeonai Batista, Tenor
Bryan Berard, Tenor
Daniel Maloy, Baritone

“The First Noel”

Arr. Cathy Moglebust

Bells of Praise

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Arr. Harry Simeone

Chancel Choir
Caleb Taylor, Snare Drum

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Gloria

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck



Liturgist-Jim O’Neal Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah

Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Donna Phillips-E Sharon Rooney-W Kathleen Gardner-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Debra Smith-E Jim O’Neal -W Rev. Norm Story-S

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

Please remember in your Prayers

- *Mel Parish, Johnnie Aldrich, Tracy Howard and Ken Osborne, as they're all navigating through some health concerns.*
- *Baby Isaac Green.*
- *Paul Deason's nephew, Joel Armstrong as he navigates a diagnosis and changes to his work.*
- *Wayne Walker and Chase Hartung.*
- *The Family of Sue Biggs.*
- *Brad Class who is recovering.*

Continued Prayer List

Barbara Wolflick; Sherry Lindsey; Heidi Harbaugh; Josie Frietze; 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.

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 Jennie Curry Bible Study.



12/17 Carol Grøgn

12/18 Faith Chilaka

12/19 Marquæz Sanchez

12/19 Richard Pond

12/21 Donnalgø Bartholomøw

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 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

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88001
575.526.5559

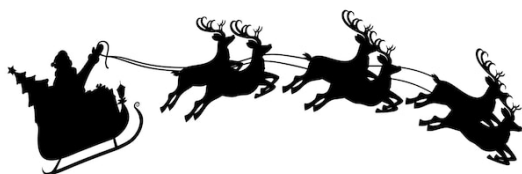
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light

Salt & Light will resume on January 8th. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful semester.



Have a great winter break!

Deacons



Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Christmas Baskets. We could not have done it without you! Many blessings to you all!

*To Edna Odoom, who has successfully completed her
Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree
at NMSU as a Crimson Scholar!*

She and her husband Michael Sekyere and their children will be moving to Dallas next week. We wish them well as they continue to follow their pursuits in Texas. May God's blessings always be with them.

Judi Ferguson, who completed her degree in



Early Childhood Education at NMSU

*There will be no Listening Prayer this week



Sunday, December 15th

- 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, December 16th

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

Tuesday, December 17th

7:00 PM Session meeting in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, December 18th

9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during meeting

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

Thursday, December 19th

6:30 PM Deacon's meeting in Jones Hall Library

Friday, December 20th

Office Closed

Saturday, December 21st

Sunday, December 22nd

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