



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“The Watchman and the Star” (19th-centrury American hymn tune) John M. Rasley (1913-1998)
“March of the Kings” (Based on 2 traditional carols) Carl Simone (1918-2003)
“Rejoice! Our Redeemer Is Born!” Gerald Peterson (1934-2015)

**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

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 11:6)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Joy to the World”

Richmond

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(from Psalms 90 & 92)

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God

People: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

People: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #152 “What Star Is This with Beams So Bright” Puer Nobis Nascitur

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows, we praise you and thank you for bringing us through the year behind us, and for the year ahead. Help us in this new year, to fret less and laugh

more, to fear less and trust you and your promises more. May we teach our children to laugh by laughing with them, and teach others about your grace by loving them. Help us this year to recognize signs of your perfect love in every sunrise and sunset, in the beauty of the mountains and the deserts of your creation. Help us to stop and listen for your steadfast love, so that we may know and serve you better. We thank you for another new year filled with opportunities. As we leave the irreparable past in your hands and step into the unknown, we welcome your gift of a new year. **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

#108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Divinum Mysterium

*Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*By his Word was all created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore!*

*O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Holy and merciful God, we want to be more like Jesus, always faithful, loving, and obedient. But as you already know, there are things that we say and do that hurt other people. We remember that Jesus would go to a quiet place to think, listen, and pray, spending time with the Father. Now in our prayer, help us use this quiet time to think, listen, and pray. We want to be more like Jesus, and we are sorry that we stray from the paths of righteousness. Thank you for loving us enough to freely forgive us. Thank you for helping us to amend our ways, and for helping us grow closer to you, day by day and year by year.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News. Jesus died and rose again, overthrowing the powers of sin and death, and he did it for the sake of the world. We are enslaved no longer by the powers of darkness. We are set free to follow Jesus. Friends believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

People: **Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: We have prayed for forgiveness, but what is prayer?

People: **Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" Kings of Orient

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Brooke Montgomery

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

CALL TO PRAYER #108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Divinum Mysterium

*This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected.
Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" We'll Walk in the Light

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

John 1:1, 10-18

Dr. Janet Loman

John 1:1, 10-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Still Becoming the Children of God"

Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN

#134 "Joy to the World"

Antioch

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays on the west and south sides, plus the choir and the childcare workers. The east will continue with masks and distancing, and will continue to use the pre-packaged Communion kits. There will also be kits available at west and south doors for those wishing to continue with the kits.

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

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-Dr. Janet Loman Deacon Captain-

Sound System-Curtis Benaway Video-Rusty Smith

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Linda Ward-E Rev. Nick Koontz -W Donna Phillips-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Nick Koontz-E Brooke Montgomery -W Veronica Giron-S

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

- *Joe White and Laura.*
- *Holly Dalagher as she recovers.*
- *Barb Wolflick and Sherry Lindsey.*
- *Susie Trumble's husband as he navigates health concerns.*
- *Dale Cook who is scheduled for shoulder surgery on January 6th.*
- *Verna Green as she recovers at home.*
- *Brad Class who is at a rehabilitation facility.*

Continued Prayer List

Happy Anniversary

Johnnie Aldrich; Tracy Howard; Mel Parish; Heidi Harbaugh; Sara Kay, now recovering at home; Jack Curry; 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.

After-Worship 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 Conner Family in celebration of Carl's & Bea's Anniversary.

1/5 Helen Moser

1/6 Julie Marineau

1/6 Nancy Cowan

1/6 Rev. Larry Hicks

1/6 Arianna Holguin

1/8 Michael Deason

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

WE'RE BACK!

Salt & Light will resume on Wednesday, January 8th. Dinner will be chili, salad, garlic bread and cookies for dessert.



Feeling Ill?

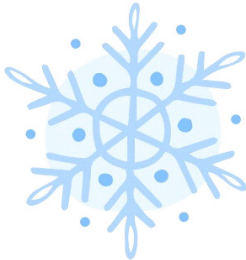
If you are sick, contagious, or suspect as much; please participate in the Life of the Church online until you are better, and let us know so we can be in prayer for you, too.



Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle begins the new year on Tuesday, January 14th at 9:30 AM for social time in the library. Bible study begins at 10:00 AM. If you are planning to attend, please read Matthew chapters 14-18 to prepare for our discussions. All ladies are invited to join us as we learn more about Matthew's ministry. Questions, please call either Co-Chair Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 or Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395.

Hello JANUARY



Sunday, January 5th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Rev. Larry Hicks leading a study of Rev. Lewis Smedes', "*The Art of Forgiving*" 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, January 6th

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

Tuesday, January 7th

- 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Joyce Curry in the Sanctuary, with a reception following



Wednesday, January 8th

- 8:00 AM Serve with us at the Soup Kitchen
- 9:00 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during this time)
- 12:00 PM Deadline for the Sunday Bulletin



Thursday, January 9th



1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, January 10th



Office Closed

Saturday, January 11th

Sunday, January 12th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Rev. Larry Hicks leading a study of Rev. Lewis Smedes', *"The Art of Forgiving"* 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