



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Nazareth”

Charles Francois Gounod (1818-1893)

“Voice of the Descending Dove” (Mark1:10)

Ralph Deane Shure (1885-1980)

“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord” (based on an old chorale) James Mansfield (1927-2018)

****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

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,... The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. (Malachi 3:1-3 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“You Belong to Christ”

You Belong to Christ

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jacque Parks

(Psalm 119)

Leader: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart.

People: How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Leader: Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise.

People: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

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

Heavenly Father, you have placed me in the Church which your Son purchased by his sacrifice and obedience. Add grace to grace that I may live worthy of that calling. I am a voyager across life's ocean; safe in heaven's ark. May I pass through this troubled world into the harbor of eternal rest. I am a tree of the vineyard you have planted. Grant me not to be barren with worthless leaves and wild grapes. Prune me of useless branches and water me with the dews of blessing. May our worship be always firmly rooted in your word, our understanding divinely informed, our affections holy and heavenly, and our motives simple and pure.¹ **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

#480 "Take Me to the Water"

Take Me to the Water

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the ages, you have given us life and salvation. In response, you have asked us to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We come before you now to say that, although we have tried, we have not been the people that we want to be. We have put other things before you and have missed opportunities to love our neighbors. Help us to acknowledge those times when we have fallen short and when we have turned away. Direct us back toward you. In this silence, hear our confessions, so that we may leave behind our mistakes and failures, and take up your grace once again.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and saves us, let us walk anew. God calls us with a holy calling, not because of our good works, but because of God's own purpose in the grace of God given through Christ Jesus. Therefore I declare to you that, in Christ, all our sin has been forgiven.

People: **Through Jesus, we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

People: **We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible,**

¹ from *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*, The Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 1975.

omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.²

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” Sweet, Sweet Spirit

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” Morecambe
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “I Ponder” Craig Courtney

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Micah 7:7, 18-20 Luke 3:15-18, 21-22 Rev. Nick Koontz
Micah 7:7, 18-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

Luke 3:15-18, 21-22 (New Revised Standard Version)

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “He Delights in Showing Clemency” Rev. Norm Story

² from The Scots Confession of 1560

*CLOSING HYMN #279 "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" St. Agnes

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" St. Agnes

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Congregational and Corporate Meeting Immediately Following Worship

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting and Corporate Meeting after Worship in the Sanctuary today, primarily for the purpose of approving Rev. Dr. Norm Story's call.

Liturgist-Jacque Parks

Sound System-Jonathon West Video-Will Schroeder

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Rev. Nick Koontz-E Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-W Donna Phillips-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Veronica Giron-E Erin Taylor-W Rev. Nick Koontz-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	Pang Baker	Bookkeeper

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 Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee.

Please remember in Your Prayers

- *Joe White and Laura.*
- *The Family of Rayma Claessen, who passed on 1-07-2025.*
- *The Family of Bill Kersting, who passed on 1-07-2025.*
- *Rev. Marcus Burr, who was placed on Hospice care.*
- *Katie Schmied*
- *The brother of Francis Aidoo.*
- *Jerry Moser, who will be having surgery.*
- *Susie Trumble's husband, who has some health concerns.*
- *Holly Dalagher as she recovers.*
- *Barb Wolflick and Sherry Lindsey.*
- *Dale Cook, who is recovering at home from shoulder surgery.*
- *Verna Green as she recovers at home.*
- *Brad Class who is at a rehabilitation facility.*

Continued Prayer List

Mel Parish; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Jerry Claessen at Grace Village; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, Mel Parish, and Ann Miller at The Heritage.

1/12 Dylan Anderson

1/13 Aline Pangoup

1/15 Florence Hamilton

1/17 David Cox



1/13 Rebecca Smith

1/14 Naomi Loya

1/16 Josh Borchert

1/17 Colleen West

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 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 Wednesday, January 15th.
Dinner will be chili, salad, garlic bread and cookies for dessert.



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. If you would like more information, you are welcome to call either Co-Chair Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 or Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395.

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.





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
- 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall (see announcement)
- 12:00 PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story

Monday, January 13th

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

Tuesday, January 14th

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, January 15th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during this time)
- 12:00 PM Deadline for the Sunday Bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 16th

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

Friday, January 17th

Office Closed

Saturday, January 18th

- 10:00 AM Crescent Park Neighborhood Watch in Watkins Hall
- 12:00 PM P.E.O. Chapter Ceremony in the Sanctuary & Jones Hall

Sunday, January 19th

- 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