



**First Presbyterian Church  
Las Cruces, New Mexico  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
January 26, 2025 - 10:30 A.M**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



PRELUDE

“I Waited for the Lord; He Inclined His Ear to Me” Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
“Jesus, Lover of My Soul” Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)  
“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” (17<sup>th</sup>-century hymn tune) Jacob B. Weber (b. 1988)

**\*\*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

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (Revelation 21:3-5 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” Rejoice, Rejoice

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Veronica Giron  
(Matthew 13)

Leader: The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**People: Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.**

Leader: Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

**People: Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#396 "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

Holy Manna

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

Most loving and compassionate God, Spirit of truth and love, Jesus Christ, our salvation and hope; we come before you in adoration and joyful gratitude for the abundant blessings of our lives. Grant this day that by the power of your Spirit, we will hunger for truth and righteousness. Illumine our hearts and minds and souls that we may better follow in the footsteps of Jesus and more worthily reflect and magnify your name. O Lord in and through our worship may we move toward being more faithful and forgiving... **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

#792 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Balm in Gilead

Congregation to sing refrain  
Choral Scholars to sing verses

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have failed to faithfully live your compassion and light. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe in you. May we be open to a vision of new possibilities and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity and sacrificial service. Holy Jesus, our living hope, may we become more and more responsive to your grace and to your call.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus from the Gospel of John and be comforted. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in me and in my love." Friends, believe the Good News, all our sins are forgiven.

**People: By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through God's grace in Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

Leader: How does the Holy Spirit help us live faithful lives?

**People:** In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen. <sup>1</sup>

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #852 "When the Lord Redeems the Very Least" Fly Fly Away

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Heaven Is Singing for Joy" Alegria  
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Jeremy Bankson

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Isaiah 61:1-4, 11 Luke 4:14-22 Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 61:1-4, 11 (New Revised Standard Version)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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<sup>1</sup> from the Brief Statement of Faith, adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 1993.

Luke 4:14-22 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Signs that Point Toward Grace" Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN #772 "Live into Hope" Truro

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Heaven is Singing for Joy" Alagria

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Veronica Giron Deacon Captain-*

*Sound System-Brent Brewer Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Rev. Nick Koontz-E -W -S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Rev. Norm Story-E Debra Smith-W Veronica Giron-S*

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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

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### 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 Music & Worship.

### *Please remember in Your Prayers*

- *Pat Kruhn (Cindy Clement's mother) as she navigates health concerns, and considers moving into a nursing home.*
- *Katie Schmied*
- *The brother of Francis Aidoo.*
- *Catie Brewer's uncle's family as they grieve the loss of Alan.*
- *The Brewers for safe travels as they attend the funeral.*
- *The family of Mel Parish, who passed on January 21<sup>st</sup>.*
- *Brad Class who is back in the hospital.*



### *Continued Prayer List*

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

**1/29**  
**Lon**  
**Anderson**



**1/30**  
**Beth**  
**Borchert-Thomas**

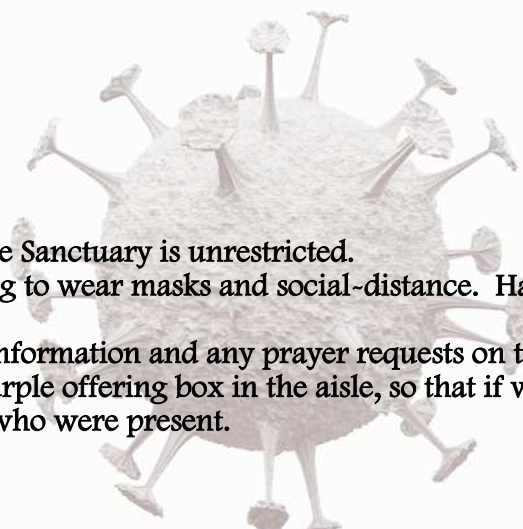


Our Worship services are available:

- 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](http://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](http://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

Wednesday, January 29th, *God's Love is Infinite.*  
Dinner will be Pizza, cesar salad, and ice cream for dessert.





### **Sunday, January 26th**

- 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 27th**

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

### **Tuesday, January 28th**

### **Wednesday, January 29th**

- 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 30th**

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

### **Friday, January 31st**

Office Closed

### **Saturday, February 1st**

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