



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

February 2, 2025 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Michael Larkin (b. 1951)

“Communion”

Ignance Xavier Joseph Leybach (1817-1891)

Fantasia on “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Roger C. Wilson (1912-1988)

**\*\*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

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:8-10 NRSV)

## CHORAL INTROIT

“Feed Us, Lord”

Feed Us

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(Psalm 147)

**Leader:** Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**People:** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

**Leader:** The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**People:** Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

#504 “We Come as Guests Invited” Wie Lieblich is Der Maien

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

God, our guide and our protector, we gather today in need of your sanctuary and peace. Please open our minds, our souls, and our hearts, that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction of your Spirit in our lives. Christ Jesus, our shepherd-king, in your presence all our deepest needs are met when your gracious love, peace, and joy come into our lives. As into our hearts your mercy overflows, help us, we pray, to follow in faith as you lead us. Through our worship, fellowship, and obedient service, restore and renew our relationship with you and with all others, by your love and power to reconcile all things, we ask in Jesus' name, amen.

### PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"  
Chancel Choir

Twenty-Fourth

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, for this day and all the blessings it contains, we thank you and praise you. In Jesus Christ you have shown us a more excellent way, a way of love that is greater than all other ways. We live surrounded by your grace and mercy, and yet at times we live as if it were not so. Help us reset our priorities upon the eternal, and live lives that reflect your compassion and forbearance. We hear of your salvation and grace, yet sin is still close and real, and daily we are enticed and drawn away from you and your gracious ways. Have mercy upon us and enter our hearts with healing transformation. Forgive the wrong of what we have done, what we have said, and who we have been.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** Hear the words of Jesus 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 Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Leader:** Now cleansed from our sin, how should we live in faithful response?

**People:** **Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40)**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#693 "Though I May Speak"

Gift Of Love

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#443 "There Is A Redeemer"

Green

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Come to the Table"

Allen Pote

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS 1 Corinthians 1:10, 10:16, 12:27, 31-13:1-3, 8-10, 12-13 Dr. Janet Loman

1 Corinthians 1:10, 10:16, 12:27, 31-13:1-3, 8-10, 12-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Greatest of These Is Love"

Rev. Norm Story

\*COMMUNION HYMN #300 "We Are One in the Spirit" They'll Know We Are Christians

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays in all three sections, and there will be pre-packaged Communion kits available at each of the 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

"Feed Us, Lord"

Feed Us

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

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Dr. Janet Loman*

*Sound System-Brent Brewer    Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Veronica Giron-E    Sharon Rooney-W    Rev. Nick Koontz-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Bill Akins-E    Rev. Nick Koontz-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



### 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 Christian Education Committee of Session.

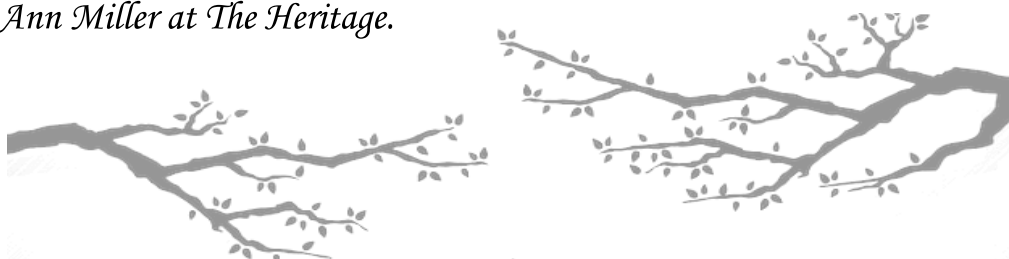


### *Please remember in Your Prayers*

- o Barbara Trudell who is in Banjul for consulting work,*
- o Jerry Moser and his healing shoulder.*
- o Brad & Gracia Class, as they cope with Brad's long illness.*

### *Continued Prayer List*

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



*Happy Birthday!*

**2/3 Anastasia Owens**

**2/4 Wayne Walker**

**2/6 Joyce Nolan**





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:

- o Seating in the West and South sections of the Sanctuary is unrestricted.
- o The East section is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance.  
Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located in each aisle.
- o 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](https://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.
5. Text 84321



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*FPC.LC/Calendar*  
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Livestream and/or

More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](http://fpc.lc)

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

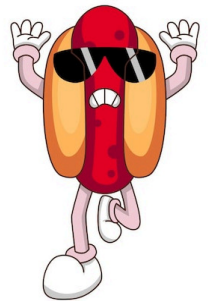
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005

575.526.5559

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



## *In the Life of the Church*



### Salt & Light

Wednesday, February 5th, *God's Love is Infinite.*

Dinner will be hot dogs, potato chips, veggie sticks with ranch dressing, and cookies for dessert.

### Jennie Curry Bible Study

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

### Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:45 AM in Jones Hall Library, for the continuation of their study of the book of Matthew. Please read chapters 18-20 in preparation. All women and their friends are invited to join us. If you need more information please contact Helen Moser at 575.647.3365 or at [helensantafe@hughes.net](mailto:helensantafe@hughes.net). You can also contact Co-Chair Cheri McMillan at 575.526.2395, or at [admcwm@comcast.net](mailto:admcwm@comcast.net).





## *The American Guild of Organists*

*The American Guild of Organists will be performing on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at  
3:00 PM in the Sanctuary.*

*International Concert Organist and Composer*

*John S. Dixon*

*Will be performing the World Premiere Performance of  
"Four New Mexico Folk Songs"*

*We hope to see you all there!*



### *Sunday, February 2nd*

- 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 Branigan Hall*
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves 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, February 3rd*

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

### *Tuesday, February 4th*

### *Wednesday, February 5th*

- 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, February 6th*

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor*
- 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Hall (see announcement)*

### *Friday, February 7th*

*Office Closed*



*Saturday, February 8th*

*Sunday, February 9th*

- 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 Branigan Hall*
- 9:00 AM      *Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves 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*

