



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

4th Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

"The Way of the Cross Leads Home" (American gospel hymn) Lani Smith (1934-2015)

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Charles Francois Gounod (1818-1893)

"How Majestic Is Your Name" (by Michael W. Smith, b. 1957)  
setting by Peggy Ann Bettcher (b. 1961)

\*\*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

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark . . . O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. (Psalm 8:1-2, 8, NRSV)

## CHORAL INTROIT

"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"

LYONS

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim

Parks

Leader: Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord, for He is kind

**People: For His mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.**

Leader: Let us sound His name abroad, for of gods, He is the God.

**People: For His mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.**

Leader: All things living He does feed; His full hand supplies their need;

**People: For His mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.**

Leader: Let us with gladsome minds praise the Lord, for He is kind.

**People: For His mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.** (John Milton)

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

#307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

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

O Lord, you have taught us that without love, whatever we do is worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray, **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

“You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”  
Chancel Choir

WAYFARING STRANGER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of our youth, or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love, remember us, for your goodness' sake. For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, relieving the troubles of our hearts and forgiving all our sins. For this we indeed thank you and give you all there glory. Amen. (Adapted from Psalm 25, a Psalm of David)

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: So, wait for the Lord! He forgives our sin. Be strong and let our hearts take courage. Wait for the Lord!

People: **We wait for the Lord and thank the Lord for our forgiveness, through Christ our Lord.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#743 “O God, You Are My God”

STEP BY STEP

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Judith Ames

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#407 "Spirit Divine, Attend our Prayers" NUN DANKET ALL'UND BRINGET HER  
PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Gilbert Martin

**PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

I Samuel 16:1-13

Rev. Larry Hicks

I Samuel 16:1-13 (NRSV)

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

People: This is the word of the Lord.

Leader: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Three Davids"

Rev. Larry Hicks

Psalm 23 (KJV)

A Psalm of David.

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

CLOSING HYMN

#803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

RESIGNATION

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#227 "Jesus, Remember Me"

REMEMBER ME

*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Dr. Howard A. Smolleck

---

*Liturgist-Jim Parks      Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi  
Sound System-Rusty Smith      Video-Brent Brewer*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:*

*Vicki Kuyper-E*

*Donna Marconi-W*

*Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:*

*Judith Ames -E*

*Rev. Larry Hicks-W*

*Jim Parks-S*

---

Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation	Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. Pastor, College Ministry
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist	Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor, Visitation
Veronica Giron	Salt & Light Coord.	Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Office Manager
Pang Baker	Bookkeeper		

---

### Members of Session

Steve Loman	Moderator of the Session	Janet Mara	Moderator, Missions
Alice Distlehorst	Music & Worship	Ada Castle	Buildings & Grounds
Roni Hardin	Moderator, Music & Worship	Jeanette Smith	Administration & Finance
Diana Howard	Moderator, Congregational Life	Yolanda Koontz	Christian Education
Scott Burns	Congregational Life	Erin Taylor	Moderator, Christian Education
Nancy Cowan	Missions	Jimmy O'Neal	Administration & Finance
Linda Ward	Moderator, Buildings & Grounds	Jim Parks	President, Foundation
*Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session	*Mary Maley	
Administration			

---

### 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 great time to visit with old and new friends alike. Fellowship this morning is being hosted by the Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee of Session.

#### *Please Remember in Your Prayers*

- o Caleb Taylor, who continues with a chronic cough.*
- o Everyone struggling to find a safe, affordable, nurturing place to live.*
- o Ellen Harbaugh and Mylo in Butte, NM.*
- o Bill and Vicki Kuyper's friend Darla, who is on a ventilator.*
- o Everyone waiting to die/pass.*
- o Robert and Angela White.*
- o Sherry Lindsey, Brian Stewart, James Leyba, and Johnny Montenegro.*

#### *Continued Prayer List*

*Charlotte Brockway; Jacque Parks; Ed Mathis; Barb Wolflick; Amber Nolan; Sherry Lindsey; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton; Valeria Carter, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.*

3/20 Kileigh Higginbotham

Welcome



**Mission Statement:** *A place where Christian love is modeled*

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](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



CCLI License No. 540727



*FPC.LC*  
Website



*FPC.LC/News*  
Newsletter Sign-Up



*FPC.LC/Calendar*  
Online Church Calendar



*FPC.LC/Sermons*  
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*



### *Annual Meeting and Luncheon*

*The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, after Worship in Watkins Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you all there!*

### *Salt & Light*

*There will be no Salt & Light this week due to Spring Break. We'll see you all on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Have a great Spring Break!*

### *Spring Clean-Up Day*

It's that time of year again. It's time for some spring cleaning. Spring Clean-up Day will be on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM. If you would like to help us clean up our grounds, please contact anyone from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, or call the office at 575-526-5559.



### *In-Betweeners for March*

*On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, we'll have a planned potluck dinner at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. (If you don't cook, just ask us for a suggestion of a dish to purchase.) Vicki Kuyper is*



*planning a musical program for after dinner! Please let the Ames know that you're coming by Monday, March 23rd, by calling 575-526-3247, or just catch us after Worship.*

### **Church bus update**

The Church bus is back up and running!! If you need a ride or know anyone who needs a ride to service, please call the Church Office at 575.526.5559, so that we can make arrangements.

### **It's That Time of Year Again!**

Easter is fast approaching and we're asking for volunteers to help with stuffing the Easter Eggs, Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Jones Hall at 4PM prior to our Maundy Thursday Service. We are also in need of candy donations, (no chocolate please). Candy donations can be dropped off at the church office during business hours. Thank you all for your support!



#### **Sunday, March 15th**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, "The Sermon on the Mount," led by Rev. Larry Hicks
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

#### **Monday, March 16th**

- 3:30 PM Storytellers of Las Cruces in Jones Hall Library
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

#### **Tuesday, March 17th**

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 7:00 PM Session Meeting in Jones Hall Library

#### **Wednesday, March 18th**

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

#### **Thursday, March 19th**

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

5:30 PM Deacon's Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, March 20th

Office Closed

Saturday, March 21st

Sunday, March 22nd

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, "The Sermon on the Mount" led by  
Rev. Larry Hicks

9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall

9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall

9:30 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall

9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary

11:45 AM Annual Meeting in Watkins Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

