



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Palm Sunday

March 26, 2026 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Jerusalem”

Henry Thomas Parker (1842-1917)

*“Behold, thy King draws near the city gates! Go forth, Jerusalem, with shout and song...
And moved as by one thought the people rise, and hasten forth, a glad, tumultuous throng...
Savior, we greet Thee, Redeemer, Lord, and King. Hosanna!”*

“The Palm Branches”

Jean-Baptiste Fauré (1830-1914)

“King All-Glorious” (Based on an Ancient Greek Hymn) Sir Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

*“King all-glorious, Lord of Hosts Almighty, Thou art revealed in victory ...
O'er the worlds of light ascended, King all-glorious, Lord of Hosts Almighty.
Alleluia, Amen.”*

**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

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!” (Luke 19:37,38 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Fanfare for Palm Sunday”

Arr. Mary McDonald

Jacob Dalager, Trumpet

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lon

Anderson

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

People: This is the gate of the Lord; let the faithful come and worship God.

*PROCESSIONAL WITH PALMS

"Blessed Is He Who Comes"

Lloyd

Larson

Combined Choirs

Congregation to join on the verses

All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King.
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went.
Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present.

Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal son.
Who in the Lord's name cometh, the King and blessed one.
To Thee before the passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To Thee, now high exalted our melody we raise!

Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring.
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King.
All glory laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

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

Gathering for worship today, we are like the crowd that lined the streets witnessing your entry into Jerusalem. Some of us gather here full of enthusiasm. Some of us gather wearied by what life has thrown at us. Some of us have come out of curiosity. Some of us out of habit. Some of us other with great expectation. Some of us with no particular hopes. It is here, O God, that you meet us and greet us and, if we will allow, it is here that you surprise us with your love and your grace. So one our eyes and hearts and surprise us today with renewed joy, with the promise of hope, with the glimpse of your good plans for us. Through our worship, we join in the cry, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in

the highest!"....**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

#627 "I Love You, Lord"

I LOVE YOU, LORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O majestic God who came in humility and riding on a donkey, we join the ages shouting your praises. While our lips give you glory, our lives do not consistently reflect your greatness and living faithfully is often beyond us. We hear of your salvation and grace, yet sin is still close and real, daily drawing us away from you. Have mercy upon us. Ride into our hearts with healing grace. Forgive the wrong of what we have done, what we have said, and who we have been. Hosanna in the highest! Lord save us and help us live more faithful and useful lives in response to your gracious love.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel, that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. 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.**

Leader: What is our only comfort, in life and in death?

People: **That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death - not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.** (The Heidelberg Catechism of 1563)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Hosana!"
Bells of Praise

Jason W. Krug

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ANTHEM “Ride Through Jerusalem” Michael Bedford

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Brook Montgomery

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

CALL TO PRAYER “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun” DUKE STREET
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “A Palm Sunday Jubilation” Arr. Ron Paige

PROCLAIM GOD’S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11 Rev. Larry Hicks

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (NRSV)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say “His steadfast love endures forever.

Open up to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD, The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

People: This is the word of the Lord.

Leader: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	“A Palm Sunday Meditation”	Rev. Larry Hicks
CLOSING HYMN	#269 “Lead On, O King Eternal”	LANCASHIRE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#268 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”	DIADEMATA
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*Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

*PROCESSIONAL	“Prelude and Fugue in C” Gustavo Morales, Organ	J. S. Bach
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*Liturgist-Lon Anderson Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

Greeting before the Worship Service:

David Vandervelde-E

Donna Marconi-W

Dawn Griffin O'Neal-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Brooke Montgomery-E

Rev. Larry Hicks-W

Lon Anderson-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 David & Jane Vandervelde along with the Buildings & Grounds Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *Pipa, my favorite dog who died.*
- *Tracy Howard, son of Diana Howard, who's cancer has spread, and immunotherapy isn't working.*
- *Friend of Tom & Cindy Clement who has pancreatic cancer.*
- *The family of Darla Jenkins, who passed away on Wednesday.*
- *Mateo Alaniz, who is battling cancer.*
- *Family of Sherry Lindsey who passed away.*

- *Joyce, that her radiation treatments work.*
- *The woman who came in looking for help.*
- *Robert and Angela White.*
- *Prayers for Brian Stewart, James Leyba, and Johnny Montenegro.*

Continued Prayer List

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

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 or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



CCLI License No. 540727



FPC.LC
Website

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Online Church Calendar

FPC.LC/Sermons
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Replay Worship Services

More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

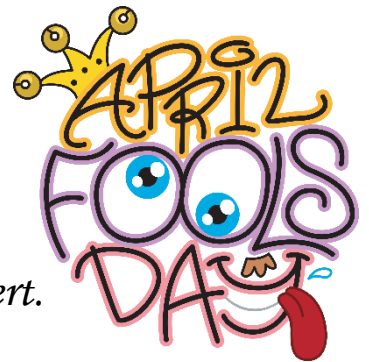
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526.5559

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

In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light

*This week's theme is "Alleluia, Jesus Has Risen!"
It's Pizza Night! Served with Caesar Salad, and cupcakes for dessert.
See you all there!*



Curtis

3/30 David Boring

3/30 Paul Deason

4/1 Donna

*Happy
Birthday*

4/4 Dawn Griffin-O'Neal

Jennie Curry Bible Study

Jennie Curry will meet on Thursday, April 9th, at 6:30 PM, rather than the first Thursday of the month due to Maundy Thursday. We hope to see you all there.

It's That Time of Year Again!

Easter is fast approaching and we're asking for volunteers to help with stuffing the Easter Eggs, this Thursday, April 2nd 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!



April

Sunday, March 29th

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 in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, March 30th

7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 31st

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for *The Good News*

Wednesday, April 1st



12:00 PM *Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin*
4:00 PM *Salt & Light (see announcement)*
7:00 PM *Choir Rehearsal*

Thursday, April 3rd

1:30 PM *Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor*
4:00 PM *Easter Egg Stuffing in Jones Hall*
6:00 PM *Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary*

Friday, April 4th

Office Closed

Saturday, April 5th

Sunday, April 6th

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*