

First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve



PRELUDE

“Find Us Faithful”

Tim Doran (b. 1954) “There Is Now a

New Creation” (See Hymn #774)

James Kantor (1967-2013) “Today We All Are Called to Be

Disciples” (See Hymn #757)

David Lasky (b. 1959)

****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

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. (Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Be Joyful”

John Yarrington

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Trish Carter-Anderson

(from Psalm 40)

Leader: I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

People: **You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.**

Leader: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart. Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

People: **Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #260 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

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

Thank you! Everything in me says "Thank you!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks. I kneel in worship facing your holy temple and say it again: "Thank you!" Thank you for your love; thank you for your faithfulness. Most holy is your name; most holy is your Word. The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength. When they hear what you have to say, God, all earth's kings will say "Thank you." They'll sing of what you've done: "How great the glory of God!" When I walk into the thick of trouble, keep me alive in the angry turmoil. With your hand you save me; finish what you started in me, God. Your love is eternal. **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 “What Does the Lord Require of You?”
Chancel Choir

MOON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, for this day and all the blessings it contains, we thank you and praise you. 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. O God, lead us, and by your grace may we follow and praise your name both now and forevermore.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: If the Lord remembered our sin, who could stand? For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But the Lord has promised, “I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God.

People: **The Lord’s name be praised. In Jesus Christ all our sin is forgiven. 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.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #749 “Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

- Choral Scholars to sing verses
- Congregation to sing refrain

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Chibuzo Chilaka

- Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front, and masks are optional for those who have been vaccinated.

CALL TO PRAYER

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

MARYTON

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“For Everyone Born”

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Jeonai Batista, Piano

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Micah 6:1-2, 6-8

Luke 6:43-49

Micah 6:1-2, 6-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 6:43-49 (New Revised Standard Version)

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What Does the Lord God Want?”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#288 “Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CORAL BENEDICTION “We Will Walk with God”

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist – Trish Carter-Anderson Deacon Captain – Patricia Adu-Mensha

Sound System – Rusty Smith Video – Brent Brewer



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 Jennie Curry Circle.

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Bobby & Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsors	Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells		

Greeting before Worship Service:

Wanda Mattiace – E Dennis Thomas – W Lucy Eyong - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Trish Carter-Anderson – E Chibuzo Chilaka – W Rev. Norm Story – S

***Those who are able, please stand**

Please turn off all cell phones

Please remember in your prayers: Aline Lyly Pangoup, on the passing of her mother Tchakounke Epse Pangoup Friede; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Henrica Misquez, assistant bookkeeper; Linda Seaton’s father; Joyce Hill; Rev. Jay Bishop; Johanna Miller, Dorris Hamilton, Genevieve Ariege, Clyde Treat, and Norma Klein at the Heritage; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons’ Ministries; prayers for all the homeless, in this cold weather; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; Gospel Rescue Mission; Missionaries Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU headquarters in Orlando, Florida.

Welcome!

We come together as a community at worship to experience the grace of God, who is present in our midst. This is a time to open ourselves to Him and to each other. Expect great things of God and His grace will come to you! Thank you for coming to First Presbyterian Church; we are glad that you are here. If you are not active in a church home in this community, we invite you to consider joining our fellowship and sharing in this ministry of Christ.

Our sacred space is not this building or this Sanctuary, but it is the fellowship we share, the hospitality we live, and the presence of God we see in each other.

For prayer requests during the week, call the church office to get your request on the Church-wide Prayer Chain, or e-mail Linda Ramirez at linda@fpc.lc

Our Vision: A place where Christian love is modeled

Our Mission: To be a place where Christian love is modeled through:

1. Understanding, celebrating, and sharing God’s Word.

2. Following obediently where God is leading us.
 3. Leading, nurturing, and serving our community for Christ.
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The **Mary Martha Circle** is collecting books for ages 4 months through 8-9 years old to be given away by the Children's Reading Alliance non-profit. This group was founded in 2010, has given away many thousands of books, and has trained parents on the importance of reading to and with their children. Also, there is a dedicated group of volunteers who are "**reading buddies**" in the classroom helping the children learn and want to read. We have a large, blue plastic bin in Jones fellowship hall for collecting books. If you need more information, please call Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 or Cheri McMillan, 575.526.2395.

Per Capita Apportionment

Every Presbyterian (USA) congregation is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount to be paid by our congregation for the year 2023 is \$29.98 per member. Members may choose to contribute this amount, if they wish, thus freeing church funds for our ministries.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 526-5559 for information on any events, or by the net: www.fpc.lc or by e-mail:

linda@fpc.lc

Rev. Norm Story e-mail: revstory@fpc.lc

Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

Sunday, January 29, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. We are viewing and discussing a 12-session series by Sandra Richter, "The Epic of Eden," which is designed to help Christians understand and engage with the Old Testament. This series should take the class up to Easter.

9:00 – 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

9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall

12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, January 30, 2023

6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

Tuesday, January 31 2023

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting.

12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)

Thursday, February 2, 2023

The Good News Newsletter will get published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in the Library. (see announcement)

Friday, February 3, 2023

Saturday, February 4, 2023

Sunday, February 5, 2023 Communion Sunday

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer. We are viewing and discussing a 12-session series by Sandra Richter, "The Epic of Eden," which is designed to help Christians understand and engage with the Old Testament. This series should take the class up to Easter.

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CCLI License No. 540727



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/29 – Lon Anderson
1/30 – Beth Thomas, Alex Merchant
2/03 – Anastasia Owens
2/04 – Wayne Walker

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 or email Linda at linda@fpc.lc)



Salt & Light – “*Blessed Are the Peace Makers*”

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

4:00-6:30 PM Grades K-12th

5:50 PM - Salt & Light Dinner,
\$5.00 suggested donation, but any amount is appreciated

Please call the church office with a reservation by Monday at 526-5559
between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

- We are also accepting donations if you would like to sponsor a child. Contact information: Karen Candusso saltandlight@fpc.lc or 575-618-9474
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Greetings! Our worship services are now available

- 1) in-person, with Covid19 precautions
 - 2) live-stream on YouTube (search for: First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM)
 - 3) video archive on the church website, our Facebook site or YouTube
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Covid19 precautions:

- **Seating in 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 at each door.
- A purple box with slots for depositing your offering is 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.

Donations to support your church can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

- Cash or check in the offering (purple boxes in the Sanctuary)
- Check sent by mail
- Church website: fpc.lc and click on the “heart” icon or fpc.lc/giving or scan QR code
- Smartphone App: Church Center
- Text 84321



Jennie Curry Bible Study

We will meet on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the library for our next study on Galatians by Beth Moore. All women are invited to attend. If you have a question please call Kathy Story 575-202-2667 or storyk@comcast.net.

HELP!

The Deacons are in need of van drivers on Sundays. We need your help to be able to once again get some of our members to church. Please contact Linda Ward if you can drive at least one Sunday a month. Thank you! (619) 417-6912 or lrwardps@gmail.com

American Guild of Organists Program - February 5th at 3:00 PM

The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring a Members' Recital at Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 5, beginning at 3:00 PM and lasting for approximately an hour. Local AGO members (including myself) from Las Cruces, El Paso, and Deming will provide the music, with perhaps one or more other instruments and congregational singing invited on several selections.

This should be a good program, especially since there have been few such concerts in this area since the onset of the pandemic. Several well-known and experienced organists in the region will be presenting. There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

Howard A. Smolleck,
Dean Emeritus, Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

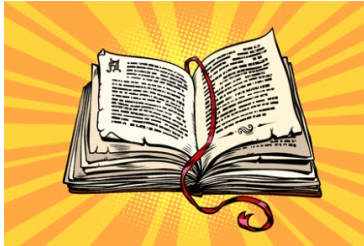


**COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT
DINNER NIGHT MINISTRY**

at
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

Please Come! Join us for dinner
in the home of Steve and Janet Loman
on
Friday, February 10, at 6:00 PM
1622 West Union Avenue
88005

If you need a ride, please let us know!



College and Young Adult Bible Study
begins on
Monday evening, February 6, at 7:00 PM
on Zoom

Please call Janet @ 575.202.4379 or
E-mail @ drjml@me.com
for the link

WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!