



## First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Palm - Passion Sunday

Annual Luncheon

Welcome New Members

March 24, 2024 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

### PRELUDE

“March Triumphant into Jerusalem”

Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)

“Jerusalem”

Henry Parker (1842-1917)

“Suite for Three Trumpets”

David Uber

Jacob Dalager, Pancho Romero and Paul McLaughlin, Trumpets

\*\*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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Why I serve

Rev. Nick Koontz

### MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. On that day the Lord their God will save them for they are the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. (Zechariah 9:9, 16 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Fanfare for Palm Sunday”

Arr. Mary McDonald

Jacob Dalager, Trumpet

### **ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim O’Neal

(from Psalm 118)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

**People: Open 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.**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

**People: The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

\*PROCESSIONAL WITH PALMS

“Blessed Is He Who Comes”  
Combined Choirs  
Congregation to join on the verses

Lloyd Larson

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Ride Through Jerusalem”  
Amon Taylor and Caleb Taylor, Bells

Michael Bedford

\*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 gather 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 open our eyes and hearts, and surprise us today with renewed joy, with the promise of hope, with a 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

"I Love You, Lord"  
Chancel Choir

I Love You, Lord

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O majestic God who came in humility and riding on a colt, we join the crowds of 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 does Scripture teach about the nature of our God?

**People: There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty; most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving**



Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.  
Philippians 2:5-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Yes, The Truth Does Matter"

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN

#269 "Lead On, O King Eternal!"

Lancashire

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

"Blessed Is He Who Comes"

Congregation to join:

Lloyd Larson

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna to the King, Hosanna to the King.  
 Hosanna to Jesus the King.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Jim O'Neal    Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh  
 Sound System-Curtis Beneway    Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

*Donna Phillips-E    Sandy Abernathy-W    Rev. Nick Koontz-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Amon Taylor-E    Rev. Norm Story-W    Jim O'Neal-S*

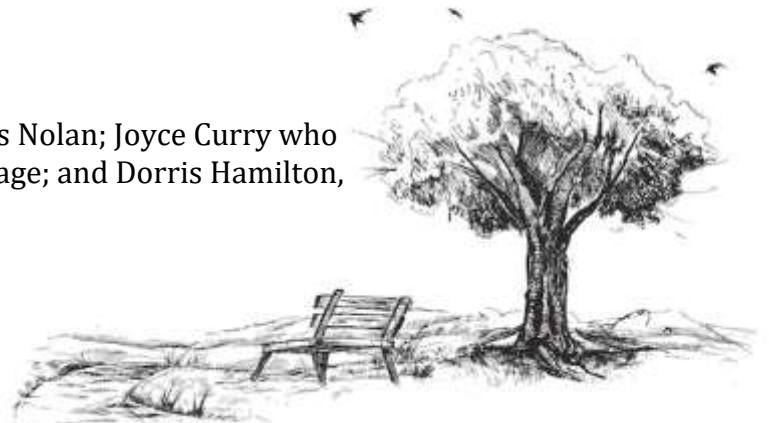
Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor	Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor	Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Secretary
Rev. Nick Koontz	Dir. of Family Ministries	Miranda Baker-French	Bookkeeper

Please Remember in your Prayers:

- ❖ Millie Conrad, in the passing of her husband A.B. Conrad.
- ❖ Jamie Gill's family on the loss of her father.
- ❖ Two year old Liliana Pena, who was recently diagnosed with Leukemia.
- ❖ David Bridges; Jack Curry; Eckhart Maier; Arnold McMillian, and Marty Pope as they are facing some health concerns and other obstacles.

Continued Prayers:

Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Roger Sellers; Francis Nolan; Joyce Curry who is at Solstice; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; and Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller, at The Heritage.





HAPPY  
**Birthdays**

- 3/24 Michelle Nganou
- 3/24 Amber Nolan
- 3/25 Olivia Heubo
- 3/26 Rayma Claessen
- 3/27 Chibuzo Chilaka
- 3/27 Anna Lowry
- 3/29 Jeanine Krenzer
- 3/29 Virginia Kraner
- 3/30 Dr. Paul Deason

**\*ANNUAL LUNCHEON TODAY\***

Please join us today after Worship for our Annual Luncheon in Reeves Hall. You will get to hear from our Leadership about what our church has accomplished this last year, and most importantly, where we're headed this year.  
 The Annual Luncheon is being hosted by our Youth and CLOS.  
 We look forward to seeing you all there!



Our Worship services are now 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



More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](http://fpc.lc)  
Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.



## In the Life of the Church



### Salt & Light

This Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be studying *Four Friends Help a Paralyzed Man*. Dinner will be baked chicken with broccoli and rice casserole, green salad, rolls with butter, and ice cream sandwiches for dessert.

### Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations

Each year, the Congregational Life and Outreach Support ministry team hides several hundred plastic eggs filled with candy for our kids to hunt after the Easter Worship service.

We are beginning to accept candy donations. Please make sure that candy is individually wrapped and small sized so that it will fit in a plastic egg. Non-melting type candy is preferred, melted chocolate and new Easter clothes are not a good combination.

Please drop your donation off at an entrance of the Sanctuary or the church office. We will be having an egg-filling party at 5:30 PM on March 28<sup>th</sup>, before the Maundy Thursday service.



### New Horizons Symphony

The New Horizons Symphony will be having a concert this afternoon at the NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall at 3:00 PM. We invite you all to come and see our very own Rusty Smith, Alice Distlehorst, Vicki Kuyper, and Bill Kuyper perform. Admission is free.

