



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
3rd Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Open My Eyes, that I May See”

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

****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

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20, 58 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Hymn To Joy

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Caleb Taylor

(1 John)

Leader: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

People **this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—**

Leader Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father.

People **See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...so we have known and believe the love that God has for us.**

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

God of heaven and earth, you who are revealed most perfectly in Christ Jesus our Lord, we thank you this day for calling us to be your people and for watching over us and guiding us in the way we should go. We come before you now, O God, aware of our need for you. We come before you to worship you and to seek your will for our lives. Bless us in this holy time. May we find words and thoughts of hope; may our feelings, as well as our minds, be engaged in your message and in your living presence. Help us to find the living Christ not only in Scripture, but in song and in praise, in prayer, and in one another. And with what we find, may we reach out to others in his most holy name, **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 #419 "Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House" Ridgemoor

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.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Having confessed our sin before God who loves us and who saves us, let us walk anew, because of God's own gracious love through Christ Jesus. Friends, believe the Good News, all our sins are forgiven.

People: By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through the blood of 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.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Because He Lives"

Bill Gaither

Because He Lives

Because I live, you also will live. John 14:19

1. God sent His Son- they called Him Je - sus; He came to
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by And feel the
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er; I'll fight life's

love, heal and for - give. He lived and died to buy my
 pride and joy he gives; But great-er still the calm as -
 fi - nal war with pain. And then, as death gives way to

par - don; An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior
 sur - ance; This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause He
 vic - t'ry, I'll see the lights of glo - ry- and I'll know He

Refrain
 lives. Be - cause He lives, I can face to - mor - row; Be - cause He
 lives. reigns.

lives, all fear is gone. Be - cause I know He holds the

fu - ture And life is worth the liv - ing- just be - cause He lives.

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“Kum Ba Yah”

Kum Ba Yah

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

Alice Parker

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 43:1, 8-13 Luke 24:36-48

Dr. Janet Loman

Isaiah 43:1, 8-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. {8} Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears! {9} Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this, and foretold to us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear and say, "It is

true." {10} You are my witnesses, says the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. {11} I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. {12} I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says the LORD. {13} I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it?

Luke 24:36-48 (New Revised Standard Version)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." {37} They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. {38} He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? {39} Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." {40} And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. {41} While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" {42} They gave him a piece of broiled fish, {43} and he took it and ate in their presence. {44} Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." {45} Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, {46} and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, {47} and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. {48} You are witnesses of these things.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	"News Too Good to be True"	Rev. Norm Story
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*CLOSING HYMN	#462 "I Love to Tell the Story"	Hankey
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GO IN GOD’S NAME

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	"I Love to Tell the Story"	Hankey
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*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck
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*Liturgist-Caleb Taylor Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah
Sound System-Jonathon West Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:
Chibuzo Chilaka-E Sandy Abernathy-W Kathleen Gardner-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:
Rev. Amon Taylor-E Rev. Norm Story-W Caleb Taylor-S*

Rev. Dr. Norm Story Dr. Janet Loman, CP	Pastor College Ministry	Rev. Pyong San Yu Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Korean Congregation 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	Catalina Munoz	Bookkeeper

Please Remember in your Prayers

Liliana Pena, a 2-year-old who's been recently diagnosed with leukemia; America Carson; Marty Pope; Mark Jenkins; Mark Krohn; Willam Pond; and Morris Hardy, all of whom are facing health concerns.



Continued Prayer List:

Francis Nolan; Sherry Lindsey; Rhett Putman; Millie Conrad; Jessica Stout; Jeremy Borchert; Cindy Medina; Arnold McMillan; Kathy Story; Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, and Ann Miller, at The Heritage; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; and Jack and Joyce Curry at Solstice.



4/15-Patrice Gabriel

4/14-William Kuyper

4/16-Virginia Haynes

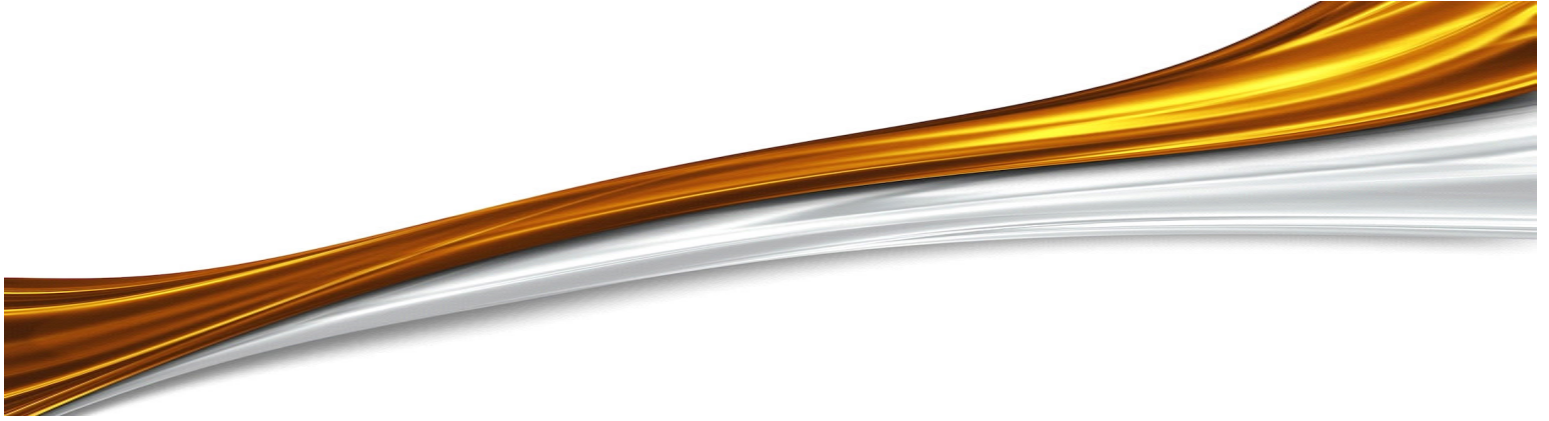
4/16-Graciano Montes

4/16-Cole Montgomery

4/19-Doris Morgan

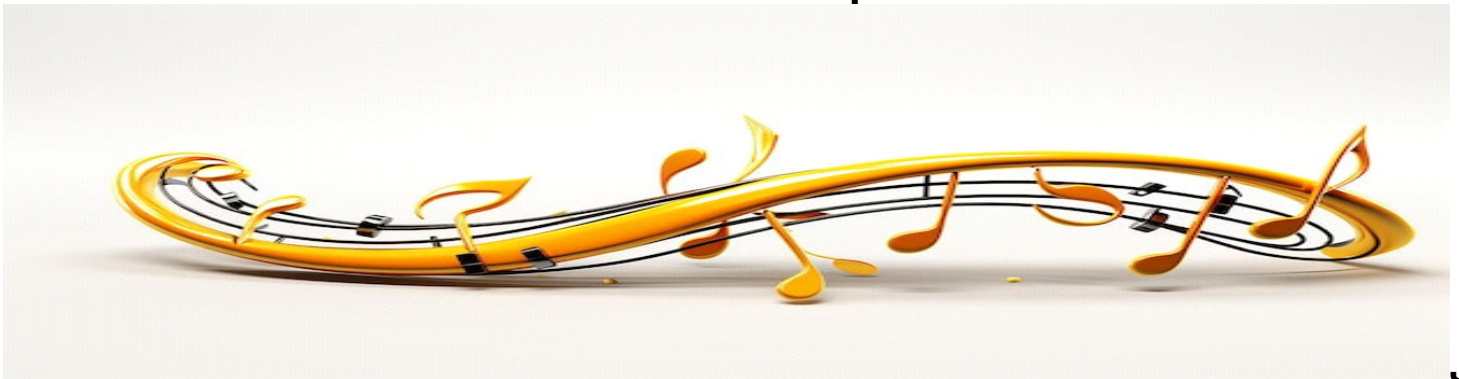
4/20-Jean Rhodes

4/20-Robert Knapp



**Wishing Bill and Ruth Akins
A Very Happy Wedding
Anniversary!**

Fellowship

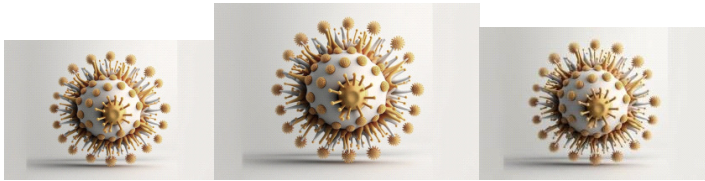


**Join
us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by Music & Worship.**



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.**



- Cash or check in the purple offering box.
- Check sent by mail.
- Online at fpc.lc/giving or via the QR code on the right.
- Using the app “Church Center”.
- Text 84321

CCLI License No. 540727

More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.



*Church

office hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-2PM, Phone 575.526.5559*
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005

In the Life of the Church

REMINDERS

No Salt & Light this week*

FUZE Youth Group will begin Wednesday, May 1st, from 5-7 PM

In-Betweeners Coming Up!



On Friday, April 26th, at 6 PM, we plan to get together for a planned potluck dinner in Watkins Fellowship Hall. After dinner, Bill Kuyper has agreed to share stories about great and beloved hymns; we will be singing some of them, too!



Please let us know you will be coming, as well as what category of dish you'd like to bring, by Monday, April 22nd. Contact the Ames at jkames@q.com of 575.526.3247.

April



Sunday, April 14th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
- 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
- 9:15 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 in Jones Hall

Monday, April 15th

- 7:00 PM Bells of Praise

Tuesday, April 16th

Wednesday, April 17th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, Office will be closed during this time
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin & The Good News
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 18th

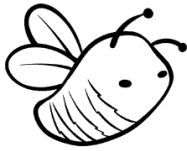
- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall Library

Friday, April 19th

Saturday, April 20th

Sunday, April 21st

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
- 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



9:15 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

PM Sermon discussion in Jones Hall with Rev. Norm Story

12:00