



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

“The King of Love”

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Albin C. Whitworth (b. 1938)

Emma Louise Ashford (1850-1937)

Robert A. Hobby (b. 1962)

**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

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:7-8 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT In My Life (468)

Lord, Be Glorified

Vs. 3

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Mathis

(Psalm 1 *The Message*)

Leader: How well God must like you— you don’t walk in the ruts of those blind-as-bats, you don’t stand with the good-for-nothings, you don’t take your seat among the know-it-alls.

People: Instead you thrill to God’s Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You’re a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, Never dropping a leaf, always in blossom.

Leader: You’re not at all like the wicked, who are mere windblown dust— Without defense in court, unfit company for innocent people.

People: God charts the road you take. The road they take leads to nowhere.

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

Gracious God, you who surprise us with new experiences of love, we come with reverence to praise and adore you. Help us to be open to your appearance among us and within us. Pour out, we pray, your Spirit upon us. As we your people gather, make us attentive to your word and ready to do your bidding. Grant that we may know your touch and enter into your glory. We ask in the name of Christ Jesus, he who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forevermore, who taught his disciples 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 Ah, Holy Jesus (218)

Herzliebster Jesu

Chancel Choir Vs. 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have failed to live out your compassion and light to others. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe in you. May we be open to a vision of new possibilities and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truthfulness. Holy Jesus, our living hope, may we become more and more responsive to your grace and to your call.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

People: **"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation." Let us live new lives of Christian unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!**

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.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE Give Thanks (647)

Give Thanks

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER #729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I Want To Be A Christian

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM Blest Are They (172)

Blest Are They

Chancel Choir

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Micah 6:1-8 Luke 6:17-27, 31

Rev. Nick Koontz

Micah 6:1-8 (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. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"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 6:17-27, 31 (New Revised Standard Version)

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Through the Lens of Grace" Rev. Norm Story
*CLOSING HYMN #724 O Jesus, I Have Promised Angel's Story

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION Blest Are They (172) Blest Are They
Refrain only

*POSTLUDE "Rondo Benvenuto" John Dixon
Mr. Dixon will also be playing a program of his own compositions in our sanctuary this afternoon at 3pm (See announcement).

Liturgist-

Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Linda Pearson-E Donna Phillips -W Rev. Nick Koontz-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story-E Erin Taylor-W Donna Mathis -S

Rev. Dr. Norm Story Pastor Rev. Pyong San Yu Korean Congregation Dr. Janet
Loman Com. Pastor, College Ministry Dr. Howard A. Smolleck Organist Ada Castle
Commissioned Pastor Veronica Giron Salt & Light Coord. Dr. Paul Deason
Commissioned Pastor Shernel Berteau Youth Group Sponsor Beth Borchert-Thomas Dir. of

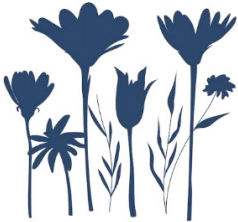


After-Worship Fellowship

Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Jennie Curry Bible Study.

Please remember in Your Prayers

- *Kye Lyn Courter, grandson of Pat & Larry Courter, as he navigates some health concerns.*
- *Ada Castle as she anticipates knee surgery.*



- *Rev. Marcus Burr, who continues to navigate health issues.*
- *Safe travels for Gene and Helen Harbaugh as they come to Las Cruces.*
- *Tracy Howard*
- *The good, kind people that gather as the Church!*
- *Barbara Trudell who is in Banjul for consulting work.*
- *Jerry Moser and his healing shoulder.*
- *Brad & Gracia Class; Brad is currently hospitalized.*
- *Wes Malone - throat cancer (Rev. Norm's cousin)*

Continued Prayer List

Sara Kay, Jack Curry, Jerry Claessen at Grace Village, Arnold McMillan, Millie Conrad, Dorris Hamilton and Ann Miller at The Heritage.



2/16 – Brooke Montgomery 2/18 – Caleb Taylor, Greg Sherman

2/19 – Dutch Matkin

2/21 – Bill Mattiace

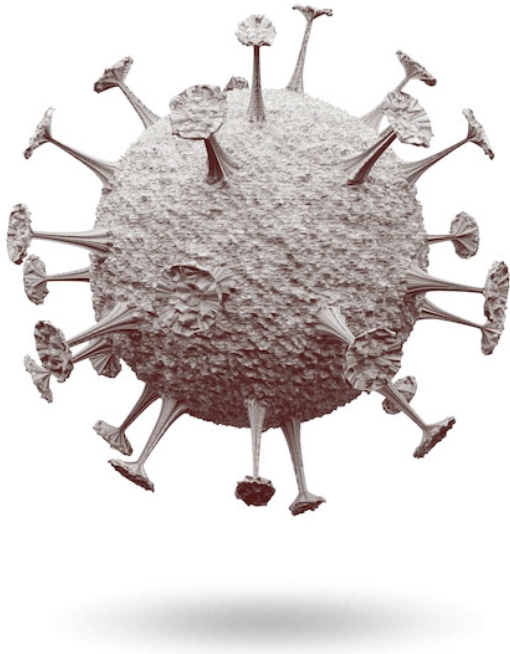
2/22 – Gerald Moser

2/23 – Greg Sherman Jr.



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:

- 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

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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

Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held 3/2/2025 after worship
COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT DINNER NIGHT

Spring Semester is underway, and we plan to celebrate with Dinner Night at the Loman's!

Friday, February 21, 2025 6:00 PM 1622 West Union Avenue Las Cruces NM 88005

Questions? Please contact Janet: 575.202.4379 djml@me.com

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! (just
let us know)

Salt & Light

Wednesday, February 19th, theme this week is Valentine's.
Dinner will be fettuccine alfredo and brownies.



The American Guild of Organists

Visiting organist John Dixon will present a recital of organ music in our sanctuary on Sunday, February 16, 2025, at 3 pm. The program will consist of a variety of his compositions including hymn-based and

patriotic material and folk songs from the British Isles and the U.S. Of special note is one of his newer compositions, *Four New Mexico Folk Songs*, which will be played in its world premiere performance as part of the program.

With nearly 1000 compositions to his credit, his current project is to visit and present a recital in each of the 50 states. This recital will make New Mexico the 41st state in the series. Dixon is Organist at Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and the Executive Director of the Academy of Music in Norfolk, Virginia. He is also the National Treasurer of the American Guild of Organists. The event is sponsored by the Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is free and open to the public.

In-Betweeners for February

On February 28th, our regular fourth Friday, we'll be getting together for dinner in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner will be catered this time; then, Las Cruces City Councilor Bill Mattiace update us about what's going on in our city government. Please let us know you'll be coming by Monday, 2/24. Contact the Ames at 575-526-3247 or jkames@q.com, or just catch us after Worship.

Sunday, February 16th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Rev. Larry Hicks leading a study of Rev. Lewis Smedes', "The Art of Forgiving" in Jones Hall Library
- 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
- 9:30 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 announcement)
- 12:00 PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story

Monday, February 17th

Office closed in observance of President's Day

Tuesday, February 18th

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting

Wednesday, February 19th

- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during this time)
- 12:00 PM Deadline for the Sunday Bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 20th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

6:30 PM Deacon Meeting

Friday, February 21th

Office Closed

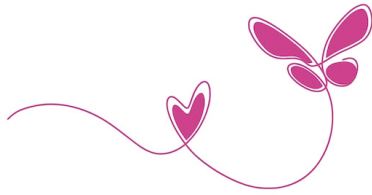
Saturday, February 22nd

Sunday, February 23rd

9:00 AM *Adult Sunday School with Rev. Larry Hicks leading a study of Rev. Lewis Smedes', "The Art of Forgiving" in Jones Hall Library*

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*

9:30 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*