



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Song of Hope” – James Mansfield (1927-2018)

“But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own” (from the oratorio **St. Paul**) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

“His Loving-Kindness” (early 19th-century hymn tune) Harold H. De Cou (1932-2008)

**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 we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure. (2 Corinthians 4:16-17 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Lobe Den Herren

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Maley

(1 Chronicles 16)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works.

People: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Israel, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Worship the Lord in holy splendor. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

Almighty and Loving God, we come to hear the Truth. The Truth that begins when we announce your majesty, that all your works are wonderful, and that indeed even the mountains around us proclaim your glory. The Truth that is present when we submit to your wisdom, your purpose and will, and when we acknowledge our place as creatures. In our worship, may we in humility acknowledge that it is only because of your grace, promise, and mercy that we dare make our desires known before our Creator. Lord Jesus, it is in knowing who you are that we can know ourselves. It is in knowing that we belong to you, that guided by the Holy Spirit, we can walk in faith and we learn to trust your merciful and mysterious ways. In this time of worship, may we be held and embraced in your loving grace as a young child is hugged and held in the tenderness of a parent's love. O Lord, send us your peace that is beyond our understanding or explanation, so that we will leave this time of worship inspired to walk ever closer with you. **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

#555 "O Lamb of God"

Land of Rest

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, in your mercy hear our prayer. We confess that it is still all too easy for us to sacrifice our convictions for convenience, your standards for status, your principles for promotion, your absolutes for our ambition, our souls for shallow and unsatisfying success. How easily we are seduced by power, prestige, pleasure, or possessions – seduced into violating our integrity or harming our fellowship with you. From the ways we live, the goals we seek, and the successes we achieve, we turn to you again, unfulfilled. Forgive us our half-hearted devotion and our double-minded spirit. In your grace, grant us hunger for your righteousness, courage, and strength to walk closer with you, we ask in the infinite name of Jesus.

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: **Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.**

Leader: What is the process of grace and faith?

People: **The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts; and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word: by which also, and by the**

administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein.... But the principal acts of saving faith are, accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #406 “We Are Standing on Holy Ground” Holy Ground
Chancel Choir to sing through once
Congregation to join the second time through

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Amon Taylor
• Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER “Hear My Prayer, O God” Hymn Chant
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “God is Love, His Mercy Brightens” Arr. John Purifoy

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Genesis 45:3-11, 50:18-20 Romans 8:5-6, 18-25, 28 Dr. Janet Loman

Genesis 45:3-8,11, 50:18-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’

Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

Romans 8:5-6, 18-25, 28 (New Revised Standard Version)

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but

those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

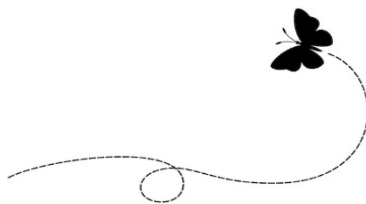
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	“Taking God’s Promises Seriously”	Rev. Norm Story
*CLOSING HYMN	#39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	Faithfulness

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”	God Be With You
*POSTLUDE	“Toccata and Fugue in F Major” Gustavo Morales	J.S. Bach



Liturgist- Mary Maley

Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-E Donna Phillips -W Rev. Nick Koontz-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Mary Maley-E Rev. Norm Story-W Amon Taylor -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
Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Secretary Rev. Nick Koontz	Dir. of Family
Ministries	Pang Baker	Bookkeeper	



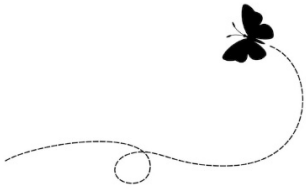
After-Worship Fellowship

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 Administration & Finance Committee of Session.

Please remember in Your Prayers

- *The family of Brad Class, please refrain from contacting the family as they have requested some private time to grieve.*
- *Kye Lyn Courter, grandson of Pat & Larry Courter, as he navigates some health concerns.*

- *Those who are taking exams at school.*
- *Phil Amador who is battling cancer, friend of Beth Thomas.*



Continued Prayer List

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



2/25 Donna Phillips

2/26 Eric Montgomery

2/26 Cole Anderson

2-27 Suzie Borchert

welcome

2/28 Diana Davidson

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

DON'T MISS

In the Life of the Church

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 2nd, after Worship in Watkins Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you all there!



Salt & Light

Wednesday, February 26th, our theme is *Got fruit?* AND.....

It's PIZZA NIGHT!

Dinner will be pizza, garden salad with ranch dressing,
and cupcakes for dessert.

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 james@q.com, or just catch us after Worship.

Jennie Curry Bible Study



Jennie Curry Bible Study will be meeting Thursday, March 6th, at 6:30 PM in Jones Hall Library. If you would like more information, please reach out to Kathy Story at storyk@comcast.net.



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 (see announcement)*

12:00 PM *Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story*

Monday, February 24th

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

7:00 PM *Bells Rehearsal*

Tuesday, February 25th

Wednesday, February 26th

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 27th

1:30 PM *Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor*

Friday, February 28th

Office Closed

6:00 PM *In-Betweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)*

Saturday, March 1st

Sunday, March 2nd



9:00 AM *Adult Sunday School with Rev. Nick Koontz*

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*

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