



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Transfiguration Sunday
March 2, 2025 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known" (incorporating 16th and 19th century hymn tunes)
Mark Sedio (b. 1954)

"Communion Meditation" (*This original piece was written by the composer who gave the recital in our sanctuary two weeks ago*)
John S. Dixon (b. 1957)

"Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending" (19th-century hymn tune)
Michael Ryan (b. 1952)

****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

Support El Caldito

Lon Anderson

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." (2 Peter 1:16-17 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Linstead

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Janet Loman

(from Phillippians2)

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

People: **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.**

Leader: 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.

People: **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.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#193 “Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

Unser Herrscher

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Lord God, you who are Creator of the Universe and the Power behind all powers, we gather today as your people to praise you, and to hear your word, and to pray that your truth might guide us in our every action and thought. Help us come from our scattered lives to focus on your eternal truth. Assure us once more of your divine control over all things; help us to surrender ourselves completely into your loving care and to follow your path of holy obedience and joy. By your love and grace, speak to us, and let your compassion so fill our lives that we walk and live in your power to make all things new, we ask in Jesus’ name, amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

#795 “Healer of Our Every Ill”

Healer of Our Every Ill

Congregation to sing the refrain

Choral Scholars to sing verses

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the ages, you have given us life and salvation. In return, you have asked us to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We come before you now to say that, although we have tried, we have not been the people that we want to be. We have put other things before you and have missed opportunities to love our neighbors. Help us to acknowledge those times when we have fallen short and when we have turned away. Direct us back towards you. In this silence, hear our confessions, so that we may leave behind our mistakes and failures, and take up your grace once again.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear and take comfort: God does not leave us on our own. He has sent his Son, Jesus, to take away the sins that separate us from him. We have been forgiven and restored.

People: **Thanks be to God! With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we live as God would have us live, in perfect unity with Him and with each other.**

Leader: What is our only comfort, in life and in death?

People: **That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father**

in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #192 “Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining” Shine, Jesus, Shine

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Lon Anderson

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

CALL TO PRAYER #190 “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory” Geneva

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Christ Is with Us” Don Besig

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Luke 9:28-36 Dr. Janet Loman

Luke 9:28-36 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Preparation for the Journey Ahead” Rev. Norm Story

*COMMUNION HYMN #515 “I Come with Joy” Dove of Peace

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays in all three sections, and there will be pre-packaged Communion kits available at each of the doors for those wishing to continue with the kits.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Linstead

After the choral benediction, you are welcome to come to the front for prayer with a pastor.

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist- Dr. Janet Loman

Sound System-Curtis Benaway Video-Rusty Smith

Greeting Before Worship Service:

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

Greeting after Worship Service:

Verna Green-E Lon Anderson-W Rev. Nick Koontz-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		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

Please join us after Worship for the Annual Luncheon in Watkins Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you all there!

Please remember in Your Prayers

- *Those who are recovering from a respiratory illness.*
- *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.*
- *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.



3/2 Johnnie Aldrich

3/3 Millie Conrad

3/3 Robert

3/4 Elizabeth



Distlehorst

Loman



3/5 Ada Castle

3/7 Doris Hamilton



welcome

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

Salt & Light

~Ash Wednesday~

On Wednesday, March 5th, dinner will be soup, bread, and cookies for dessert, served by all of our wonderful kitchen crews. Dinner will be served at 5PM followed by our Ash Wednesday Service at 6PM in the Sanctuary. There will be no High School Group that evening so that everyone may attend the service. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 4th either by email, secretary@fpc.lc, or call the church office at 575.526.5559. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Adult & Youth Sunday School

On March 2nd and 9th, the youth and adult Sunday School classes will be combined in Jones Hall, meeting at 9 AM. They will be studying lessons derived from Walter Brueggeman's *Sabbath as Resistance* led by Rev. Nick Koontz.

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.

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, March 11th, at 9:30 AM for social time and study at 10:00 AM.

Please read Matthew chapters 21-26 for preparation of the study.

We invite all ladies in the church family to join us as we journey through the book of Matthew. Questions, please call Helen Moser at 575.647.3365.



March
April
May

Sunday, March 2nd

- 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School with Rev. Nick Koontz leading a study derived from "Walter Brueggeman's Sabbath as Resistance in Jones Hall Library
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 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 Annual Luncheon in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Monday, March 3rd

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 4th

Wednesday, March 5th

- 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)
- 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 6th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)

Friday, March 8th

Office Closed

Saturday, March 9th

Sunday, March 10th

- 9:00 AM Adult & Youth Sunday School with Rev. Nick Koontz leading a study derived from "Walter Brueggeman's Sabbath as Resistance in Jones Hall Library
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 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