



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 9, 2025 - 10:30 A.M

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

"Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended"

Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

"To Thee I Cry, Lord Jesus Christ"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

"O Savior of the World"

John Goss (British, 1800-1880)

**\*\*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

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16 NRSV)

## CHORAL INTROIT

"The Glory of These Forty Days"  
Leah Mathe, Solo

Erhalt Uns, Herr

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Divine Mboh

(from Psalm 147)

**Leader:** Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD gathers the outcasts. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

**People:** **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. The Lord takes pleasure in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

**Leader:** Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

**People: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE                      #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"                      Nettleton

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Holy God, keeper of promises, you fill the empty aching of our lives with the comfort of your presence. You rejoice in us as your children even when we throw temper tantrums. You re-energize us with your grace even when we become complacent. Jesus Christ, giver of peace, we are not orphans of this world, but claimed as your sisters and brothers. You do not give up on us, but give yourself for our sakes, and you show us the path when we have lost our way. Holy Spirit, gentle Teacher, you go to bat for us when we are in a slump. You whisper the language of faith when we have forgotten the words. By your grace hear us as we pray as one people, saying, **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                      #783 "When We Are Tested"                      Angels Of Healing  
Choir to sing vs. 1  
Congregation to join on verses 2-4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Gracious Lord, help us to unmask, and bring before you the truth of our lives as honestly as we can. O Lord, may we not waste the opportunity of this precious time before you, with lies, disguises, hypocrisies, or self-deceptions that hinder our chance to be healed. O Lord, bring to our minds the times when we have sinned and failed to follow you, so that we may confess and get out from under the burden of our fear and guilt. May we be transformed from our wayward ways by your loving mercy, restored, encouraged and equipped to live out our faith anew into this world so much in need.

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. God calls us with a holy calling, not because of our good works, but 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 redeeming sacrifice of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Leader:** What is the foundation upon which we can trust and live in hope?

**People:** **In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.<sup>1</sup>**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #43 "You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord" On Eagle's Wings  
Congregation to sing refrain  
Choral Scholars to sing verses

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Chibuzo Chilaka  
. Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER "Come and Fill Our Hearts" Confetimini Domino

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Beneath The Cross Of Jesus" Arr. Lloyd Larson

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 11-16 Luke 4:1--13 Dr. Paul Deason

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (New Revised Standard Version)

Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When

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<sup>1</sup> Lines 1-18, "The Brief Statement of Faith", adopted by PC(USA) in 1993.

you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.

Luke 4:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	"Headed in the Right Direction?"	Rev. Norm Story
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*CLOSING HYMN	#166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"	St. Flavian
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### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	#227 "Jesus, Remember Me"	Remember Me
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Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom

*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck
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*Liturgist- Divine Mboh*

*Sound System-Jonathan West Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting Before Worship Service:*

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

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Chibuzo Chilaka-E Dr. Paul Deason-W Rev. Norm Story-S*

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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

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### *Please remember in Your Prayers*

- *Pastor Brown Caldwell, who will be having surgery on April 1<sup>st</sup>.*
- *Those that are ill, those traveling for Spring Break, and those taking exams.*
- *Diana Deason's sister, Carloe, and her persistent joint pain.*
- *The family of Brad Class, please refrain from contacting the family as they have requested some private time.*

### *Continued Prayer List*

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



3/9 Wayne Maley      3/9 Jimmy O'Neal  
3/11 Jessica Smith  
3/11 Janice Sherman      3/12 Carol Conner  
3/13 Natassja Galaz  
3/14 Joanne Kersting      3/14 Giselle Sanchez  
3/14 Domhnall MacDougall-Deason

*happy  
birthday*



# 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:

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at [fpc.lc/giving](https://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.
5. Text 84321



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More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](https://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



No Salt & Light  
this week because  
it's Spring Break!  
Enjoy your fun in  
the sun!

## 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 Congregational Life and Outreach Support Committee of Session.

## Mary Martha Circle

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

Please read Matthew chapters 21-26 to prepare for the study.

We invite all ladies in the church family and their guests to join us as we journey through the Book of Matthew. Please call Helen Moser at 575.647.3365  
with any questions.





# March

## Sunday, March 9th

- 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 Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall Library
- 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, March 10th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 1:00 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

## Tuesday, March 11th

## Wednesday, March 12th

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

## Thursday, March 13th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

## Friday, March 14th

Office Closed

## Saturday, March 15th

## Sunday, March 16th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer will begin a Bible Study called, "With Jesus in the Upper Room" by Maxine Dunnan, which will include short videos to support the study guide
- 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



