



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
2nd Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2025 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Roger C. Wilson (1912-1988)

“Before Thy Throne We Kneel”

Donald Lee Moore (1910-2000)

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

Harold H. De Cou (1933-2008)

****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 if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Hear My Prayer

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alonzo Brewer

(from Philippians 2)

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 #265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Duke Street

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

O God of truth, we thank you for the holy Scriptures, their precepts, promises, directions, and light. In them may we learn more of Christ, be enabled to retain his truth, and have grace to follow it. We rejoice in another Lord's Day when we turn our minds away from the cares of the world and attend to you without distraction. Here may your word awaken the careless, reclaim the wandering, establish the weak, glorify all who hear, and make ready your people for their Lord... **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

"Psalm 5 (NRSV) for Flutes"

Victoria A. Kuyper

Solo flute: Vicki Kuyper

Flute Choir: Amon Taylor, Nancy Christmore, Molly Molloy

Narrator: Bill Kuyper

To the leader: for the flutes. A Psalm of David

- 1 Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.
- 2 Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God,
for to you I pray.
- 3 O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.
- 4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil will not sojourn with you.
- 5 The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.
- 6 You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.
- 7 But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house,
I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.
- 8 Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.
- 9 For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction;
their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues.
- 10 Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels;
because of their many transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.

11 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,

so that those who love your name may exult in you.

12 For you bless the righteous, O Lord;

you cover them with favor as with a shield.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of love and tenderness, You call us from the chaos of our lives, just as we are. Embrace each of us now as we confess our sins. Forgive us for the opportunities we miss, for squandering our gifts, for wasting our time, and for simply being too busy and preoccupied to keep our focus on the things that really matter. Where we have fallen short of doing your will, forgive us. Where we have neglected those in need, forgive us. Where we have been selfish and hurt other people, forgive us. By your mercy and grace, lead us to live in ways that more faithfully reflect your steadfast loving kindness.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: If the Lord remembered our sin, who could stand? For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But the Lord has promised, "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God.

People: **The Lord's name be praised. In Jesus Christ all our sin is forgiven. 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 #300 "We Are One in the Spirit" They'll Know We Are Christians

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"
Chancel Choir

Hear My Prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Setting by Warner Hutchison

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8, 11-12 Philippians 3:17-4:1, 8-9 Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8, 11-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken. For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my

deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

Philippians 3:17-4:1, 8-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Standing Firm in the Lord”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#462 “I Love to Tell the Story”

Hankey

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

#227 “Jesus, Remember Me”

Remember Me

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

Liturgist- Alonso Brewer

Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Rev. Nick Koontz-E Donna Marconi -W Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story-E Amon Taylor-W Alonso Brewer-S

Rev. Dr. Norm Story
Loman Com. Pastor, College Ministry
Commissioned Pastor Veronica Giron
Commissioned Pastor
Music & Bells Veronica Giron
Ministries Pang Baker

Pastor Rev. Pyong San Yu
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck
Salt & Light Coord. Dr. Paul Deason
Youth Group Sponsor Beth Borchert-Thomas
Secretary Rev. Nick Koontz
Bookkeeper

Korean Congregation Dr. Janet
Organist Ada Castle
Dir. of
Dir. of Family

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *The family of Blaine Whittacker.*
- *Those making changes to their living situation, especially those considering a move to a nursing home.*
- *Yolanda Koontz, as she continues her cancer treatment.*
- *Youth member Anya, as she travels to Scotland for a school trip this week.*
- *Pastor Brown Caldwell, who will be having surgery on April 1st.*
- *The family of Ann Miller, who passed away on February 28th.*
- *Those who are ill.*
- *Those traveling for Spring Break.*

Continued Prayer List

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





3/18 Rev. Marcus Burr

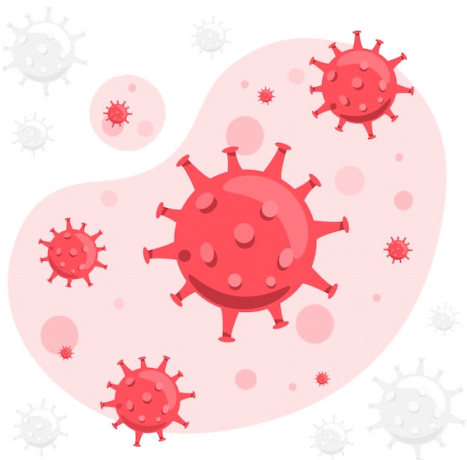
3/20 Kileigh Higginbotham

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 Music and Worship Committee of Session.

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

No Salt & Light this
week due to
Spring Break.
We hope you all are
enjoying your time off!

In-Betweeners For March

On Friday evening, March 28th, we'll be getting together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner this time will be a planned potluck. After dinner, David Thomas has agreed to present his latest research, which is about the history of the town of Dona Ana.

Please let us know that you plan to come, as well as what category of dish you'd like to bring, by Monday, March 24th. Contact: the Ames at 575.636.0210, or jkames@q.com.



March
April
May

Sunday, March 16th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer will be studying "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 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 17th

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

Tuesday, March 18th

Wednesday, March 19th

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 20th

1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, March 21st

Office Closed

Saturday, March 22nd

Sunday, March 23rd

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer will be studying "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

<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall</i>
<i>9:30 AM</i>	<i>Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary</i>
<i>10:30 AM</i>	<i>Worship together in the Sanctuary</i>
<i>11:45 AM</i>	<i>After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall</i>
<i>12:00 PM</i>	<i>Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story</i>