



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

5th Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025 - 10:30 A.M

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“Let us Break Bread Together”

Tom Birchwood (1934-2015)

Lenten Prelude: “Christ Weeps Over Jerusalem”

Charles E. Sergisson (1905-1988)

“Victimae Paschali Laudes” (Praises to the Passover victim) Jean Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Vicki Kuyper, Flute & Holly Dalager, Oboe

****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

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:1, 18-19 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Madrid

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Janet Loman

(Psalm 25)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

People: **Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O Lord!

People: **O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Loving God, you call us to prayer, and offer yourself to all who seek and call upon your name. Your promises are true and entirely reliable. Upon your grace and mercy we find strength and courage, joy, and peace. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us today and deliver us from coldness of heart, a wandering mind, and wrongful desire. By the power of your living and active Word place within us a steadfast love and devotion, so that we may worship and serve you with our whole lives. Satisfy our longing with your Presence, and through us bring glory to your name. We ask it through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

"O Lamb of God"
Chancel Choir

Land of Rest

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbors. You are rich in mercy toward us, but sometimes we are stingy in offering grace and mercy to others. You love all the peoples of the world, but we limit our love to those we know, approve of, and like. You have called us to trust in your power and grace, but too often we have placed our trust in wealth, possessions, technology, reputation, or our own abilities. You are light, but we have preferred to remain in darkness, so that our words, deeds, and selfish attitudes are less exposed. Take away our sins and renew us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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: Let us declare what we believe using the Apostles' Creed.

People: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE	#749 "Come! Live in the Light!" Congregation to sing refrain Choral Scholars to sing verses	We Are Called
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GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES		Erin Taylor
•	Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.	

CALL TO PRAYER	#216 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"	St. Christopher
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PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM	"Bread of Life"	Joel Raney
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PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS	Philippians 3:7-16	Dr. Janet Loman
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Philippians 3:7-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

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

SERMON	"Living Toward a Goal That Lasts"	Rev. Norm Story
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*COMMUNION HYMN	#223 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"	Hamburg
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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 #227 "Jesus, Remember Me" Remember Me

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom

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 Beneway Video-Rusty Smith

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Donna Marconi-Deacon Captain -E -W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Rev. Nick Koontz-E Erin Taylor-W Veronica Giron-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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *Martine Christensen.*
- *Ken & Michelle Osborne as they face some health concerns.*
- *The city of Las Cruces in the wake of the shooting.*
- *Francis' brother's health.*
- *The volunteers at El Caldito Soup Kitchen.*
- *Sandra Valencia, who had a successful surgery.*
- *The family of Linda Seaton's father, Ben.*
- *The family of Bill Christensen.*
- *Everyone who is facing illness.*

Continued Prayer List

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

4/7 Jerome Claessen

4/9 Lourdes Maldonado



4/8 John Pleasant

4/12 Kathlene Walker

4/12 Divine Mboh

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.

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 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



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

You all are invited to the Salt & Light Spring Picnic and Musical!

This Wednesday, April 9th, the kids will be performing

"Table for Five Thousand....The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes."

The kids will meet at their regular time, 4 PM for an afternoon filled with games and food, followed by our musical at 6:15 PM. There will be no high school youth group that evening. Please let the office know if you plan to attend the picnic. We hope to see you all there!

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 8th, at 9:30 AM for social time and Bible study at 10:00 AM. Please read Matthew chapters 21-26 in preparation 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.

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT DINNER NIGHT IS COMING SOON!

Friday, April 11, 2025

6:00 PM

1622 West Union Avenue

Las Cruces NM 88005

Questions? Please contact Janet:

575.202.4379

drjml@me.com

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



Sunday, April 6th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer is 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 Reeves 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 in Jones Hall Library with Rev. Norm Story

Monday, April 7th

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

Tuesday, April 8th

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)

Wednesday, April 9th

- 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 Spring Picnic & Musical (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 10th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, April 11th

Office Closed

Saturday, April 12th

Sunday, April 13th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer is 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 Reeves Hall
- 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary
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