



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
2nd Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025 - 10:30 A.M
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

****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

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19-20, 54 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
Choral Scholars
Gustave Morales, Piano

Prayer of St. Francis

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
(1 John)

Dawn Griffin-O'Neal

Leader: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life —

People **this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—**

Leader Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father.

People **See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...so we have known and believe the love that God has for us.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #33 "Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show" LLANFAIR

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Gracious God, you who so often surprise us with new experiences of love, we come with reverence to praise and adore you. Help us to be open to your appearance among us and within us. Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray. We gather here as your people, Lord; help us be attentive to your Word and ready to do your bidding. Grant that we may know your touch and enter into your glory. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forevermore. **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 "We Cannot Measure How You Heal" Ye Banks and Ye Braces
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Holy and merciful God, we want to be more like Jesus, always faithful, loving, and obedient. But as you already know, there are things that we say and do that hurt other people. We remember that Jesus would go to a quiet place to think, listen, and pray, spending time with the Father. Now in our prayer, help us use this quiet time to think, listen, and pray. We want to be more like Jesus, and we are sorry that we stray from the paths of righteousness. Thank you for loving us enough to freely forgive us. Thank you for helping us amend our ways, and for helping us grow closer to you, day by day and year by year.

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: What do you mean when you say, "we are forgiven"?

People: Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.¹

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #314 “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” Christ Be Our Light
Choral Scholars to sing the verses
Congregation to sing refrain

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

CALL TO PRAYER #828 “More Love to Thee O Christ” More Love to Thee

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “My Jesus, I Love Thee” Emily Lund

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 34:1-4, 8, 17-19, 22 John 21:1-3, 9, 13-17, 24-25 Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 34:1-4, 8, 17-19, 22 (New Revised Standard Version)

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

John 21:13-17, 24-25 (New Revised Standard Version)

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When they

¹ Question #62, The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version, Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Loving Jesus Means Serving Others"

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#720 "Jesus Calls Us"

Galilee

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Amen"

Amen

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist- Dawn Griffin-O'Neal

Sound System-Max Schroeder

Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Donna Phillips-E

-W

Rev. Nick Koontz-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-E Lon Anderson-W Rev. Norm Story-S

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. 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

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 & Outreach Support Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *John Curry Sr. as he recovers from a fall.*
- *Barb Wolflick, John, Kathy Walker and Evangeline as they are all traveling.*
- *Bob Jackson, Diana Howard's brother-in-law.*
- *Those whose income and/or savings are uncertain at this time.*
- *Sandra Valencia's recovery.*
- *Francis' brother's health.*
- *The volunteers at El Caldito Soup Kitchen.*
- *Martine Christensen*
- *Florence Hamilton, who is now at Good Samaritan, room 302.*
- *Ada Castle*

Continued Prayer List

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

4/28 Dominic
Candusso



4/29 Diana
Howard

5/3 David Curtiss



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”.



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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



Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship Service on Sunday, May 11th, releasing Rev. Norm Story from his pastoral vows and duties at First Presbyterian Church.

Vacation Bible School

Come! And let's travel to Egypt this summer as we learn and see how *Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace* takes place. Our trip to the pyramids begins June 23rd. We hope to see you all there!





Sunday, April 27th

- 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 Borchert-Thomas in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall
- 12:00 PM Sermon Discussion in Jones Hall Library with Rev. Norm Story

Monday, April 28th

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

Tuesday, April 29th

Wednesday, April 30th

- 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, May 1st

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, May 2nd

Office Closed

Saturday, May 3rd

Sunday, May 4th

- 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
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- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
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