



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 20, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Punish Me Not in Your Anger" (Chorale from ca. 1690)

Ernst Friedrich Richter (1808-1879)

"Meditation on "There Is a Name I Love to Hear" ("O How I Love Jesus")

(19th-century American camp meeting song)

Jason W. Krug (b. 1978)

"More Like the Master" (American hymn from 1906)

John M. Rasley (1913-1998)

**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

Lord, who will sojourn in Your tent, who will dwell on Your holy mountain? He who walks blameless and does justice and speaks the truth in his heart. Who slanders not with his tongue, nor does to his fellow man evil, nor bears reproach for his kin. The debased in his eyes is repugnant, but to Lord-fearers he accords honor. When he vows to his fellow man, he does not revoke it. His money he does not give at interest and no bribe for the innocent takes. He who does these will never stumble. (Psalm 15, Dr. Robert Alter's Translation)

CHORAL INTROIT

"The Church's One Foundation"

AURELIA

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marsha Topley

Leader: Come, people of faith, trusting God's steadfast love. Take refuge in the eternal presence.

People: We want to acknowledge God first in our lives. We seek to rely on a power beyond ourselves.

Leader: Know that Christ is the image of the invisible God, the one in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

People: We are the church, gathered in Christ's name. We are the body of Christ, seeking to live faithfully.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #309 "Come, Great God of All the Ages" ABBOT'S LEIGH

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Awesome God, we thirst for your Word. We long to make sense of so much we do not understand. We want our worship to be more than a quick diversion from tasks that seem more pressing. We want to believe there is more to life than seeking personal gain. We bring to you today our troubles and anxieties, our estrangements and hostilities, our boasting and deceptions. Meet us here with truth we cannot avoid... **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 #108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Take away our distractions, O God, so we may be confronted by your expectations of us. We realize that our busy striving after things has dulled our awareness of You. We have sought fulfillment in ways that deny You and hurt other people. Sometimes our success tramples the needy, and brings ruin to the poor. Even our benevolence becomes self-serving and our virtues run amok. O God, restore us, we pray, in Your presence.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God whom we have to hear, and whom we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

People: We reject the false doctrine that the Church could and should recognize as a source of its proclamation, beyond and besides this one Word of God, yet other events, powers, historic figures, and truths, as God's revelation.

Leader: As Jesus Christ is God's comforting pronouncement of the forgiveness of all our sins, so, with equal seriousness, he is also God's vigorous announcement of his

claim upon our whole life. Through him, there comes to us joyful liberation from the godless ties of this world for free, grateful service to his creatures.

People: In gratitude to God, we reject the false doctrine that there could be areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords, areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him. (The 1934 Theological Declaration of Barmen)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#468 "In My Life"

LORD, BE GLORIFIED

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

CALL TO PRAYER

#494 "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts"

QUEBEC

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Dream On, Dream On"

DREAM ON

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Amos 8:4-12 and Colossians 1:15-23

Dr. Janet Loman

Amos 8:4-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? On that day, says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day. The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall

wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

Colossians 1:15-23 (New Revised Standard Version)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	“Putting Christ Back in Christians”	Rev. Nick Koontz
--------	-------------------------------------	------------------

*CLOSING HYMN	#69 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”	HERE I AM, LORD
---------------	----------------------------------	-----------------

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“You Shall Go Out with Joy”	THE TREES OF THE FIELD
---------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck
-----------	-------------------------	--------------------

<i>Liturgist- Marsha Topley</i>	<i>Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi</i>
<i>Sound System-Rusty Smith</i>	<i>Video-Will Schroeder</i>

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Donna Marconi-E Sharon Rooney-W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Erin Taylor-E Marsha Topley-W Rev. Nick Koontz-S

Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation	Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. Pastor, College Ministry
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist	Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor/Visitation
Veronica Giron	Salt & Light Coord.	Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Office Manager
Rev. Nick Koontz	Dir. of Family Ministries	Pang Baker	Bookkeeper

Members of Session

Steve Loman	Moderator	Yolanda Koontz	Christian Education
Bill Akins	Administration & Finance	Jerry Moser	Buildings & Grounds
Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session	Jimmy O'Neal	Administration & Finance
Patrick Cummings	Moderator, Christian Ed.	Jim Parks	President, Foundation
Dr. Paul Deason	Moderator, Missions	Bruce Pearson	Congregational Life
Alice Distlehorst	Music & Worship	Stephen Taylor	Co-Moderator, Congregat. Life
Roni Hardin	Moderator, Music & Worship	Linda Ward	Moderator, Building & Grounds
Diana Howard	Co-Moderator, Congregat. Life		

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.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o Everyone soon returning to school.*
- o The family of Jerry Claessen, in his passing.*
- o Bill Akins, as he recovers from his illness.*
- o Those affected by the floods in Texas and Ruidoso.*

Continued Prayer List

Yolanda Koontz; Barb Wolflick; Amber Nolan; Sherry Lindsey; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Rev. Dave Schroeder; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, Don Niewold, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.



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:

- o Seating in the West and South sections of the Sanctuary is unrestricted.
- o The East section is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance. Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located in each aisle.
- o 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



CCLI License No. 540727



FPC.LC
Website

FPC.LC/News
Newsletter Sign-Up

FPC.LC/Calendar
Online Church Calendar

FPC.LC/Sermons
Livestream and/or
Replay Worship Services

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



Youth Nature Walk

Wednesday, July 23rd, we will be heading to Carlsbad Caverns and reading and discussing James 5:1-6 and 5:7-20. We will be leaving at 8AM and returning at 7PM. Anyone who would like to attend is more than welcome to join us. We hope you will join us!

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On Friday evening, July 25th, we'll be getting together for good fellowship and good food in cool Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner this time is a planned potluck. After dinner we'll enjoy an excellent video, "Hawaii's Humpbacks, Pacific Voyagers." Please let us know by Monday, 7/21, that you'll be coming, and what category of dish (main dish, salad, veg./side or dessert) you'd like to bring. Contact the Ames, jkames@q.com, or 575-526-3247.

7/22 Vanessa Medina

7/22 Barry Sullivan

7/23 Linda Ward

7/24 Jim Ward

7/26 Vicki Kuyper

7/27 Debra Smith

7/29 Michelle Osborne

7/31 Brent Brewer



Sunday, July 20th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer, viewing "The Chosen" series, Season 4
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:30 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 (see announcement)
- 6:00 PM Apostles at the Movies series, featuring "Oh, God!" in Jones Hall

Monday, July 21st

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News

Tuesday, July 22nd

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

Wednesday, July 23rd

- 8:00 AM FUZE Youth group heads to Carlsbad Caverns, returning around 7 PM (see announcement)
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during this time)

Thursday, July 24th

1:30 PM *Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor*

Friday, July 25th

Office Closed

6:00 PM *In-Betweeners in Watkins Fellowship Hall (see announcement)*

Saturday, July 26th

Sunday, July 27th

9:00 AM *Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer, viewing "The Chosen" series, Season 4*

9-11:45 AM *Childcare in Branigan Hall*

9:00 AM *Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall*

9:30 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 *Fellowship in Jones Hall*