



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 17, 2025 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

Two settings of the Reformation chorale "Christ, You Are My Life"

Johann Andreas Streicher (1761-1833) and Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

"Prelude and Fugue in F Major"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

"God's Realm Is Our Desire, where Peace and Justice Reign"

(tune by Robert Jackson, 1888)

David Lasky (b. 1957)

**\*\*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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Youth Rummage Sale

Rev. Nick Koontz

## MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

"My Song Forever Shall Record"

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Winnie Quinzi

Psalm 119

Leader: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.  
Blessed are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,  
who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

**People:** O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

**Leader:** Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

**People:** Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise. I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes. My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#8 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

MELITA

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

O God, you are worthy of all our praise and worship. Today we celebrate your love and our relationship with you through Jesus Christ. Thank you for expressing your love in so many ways. As we think of your love, we are reminded of your call to love and care for those around us. Help us to discover more truth and joy in you, for the more we give ourselves to you, the more we have left to give to others. In and through our worship today, guide and show us how to be more faithfully your servants responding to your gracious love. We pray that, through our worship, we will be open to your Word and Spirit. May we be equipped to lead more faithful and useful lives according to your will and purpose...***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

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PICARDY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord Jesus, I sin. Grant that I may never cease grieving because of it, never be content with myself, never think I can reach a point of perfection. Crush my envious spirit, command my tongue, trample down my pride and self-righteousness. Give me grace to be holy, kind, gentle, pure, peaceable, to live for your glory and not to please myself. Deliver me from attachment to things and desires unclean and unworthy of a beloved child of God. According to your grace, help me search the shadows of my soul, that I may cast myself on your steadfast loving mercy. Lord, help me, for your presence alone can make me holy, devout, strong, and happy. Abide in me, gracious God.

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:** **"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation." Let us live new lives of Christian unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!**

**Leader:** Now cleansed from sin, what would God have us to do?

**People:** **The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**  
**(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE      #616 "Our God Is an Awesome God"      AWESOME GOD

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES      Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER      #30 "O God, in a Mysterious Way"      DUNDEE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM      "Lift Up the Gates Eternal"      GILU HAGALILIM

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS      Psalm 82 (Scottish Metrical Psalter of 1650)      Dr. Paul Deason  
Luke 12:49-56 NRSV

Psalm 82 (Scottish Metrical Psalter of 1650)

In gods' assembly God doth stand; he judgeth gods among. How long, accepting persons vile, will ye give judgment wrong? Defend the poor and fatherless; to poor oppress'd do right. The poor and needy ones set free; rid them from ill men's might. They know not, nor will understand; in darkness they walk on: All the foundations of the earth out of their course are gone. I said that ye are gods, and are sons of the Highest all: But ye shall die like men, and as one of the princes fall. O God, do thou raise up thyself, the earth to judgment call: For thou, as thine inheritance, shalt take the nations all.

Luke 12:49-56 (New Revised Standard Version)

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather

division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “God’s Justice, Christ’s Fire, and Our Call to Discernment” Dr. Paul Deason

\*CLOSING HYMN #307 “God of Grace and God of Glory” CWM RHONDDA

### **GO IN GOD’S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” SICILIAN MARINERS

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist- Winnie Quinzi      Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi*  
*Sound System-Rusty Smith      Video-Brent Brewer*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:*  
*Tom Marconi-E   Donna Phillips-W   Donna Marconi-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:*  
*Winnie Quinzi-E   Dr. Paul Deason-W   ErinTaylor-S*

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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

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### **\*Members of Session**

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

### **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.

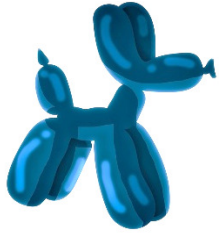
### ***Please Remember in Your Prayers***

- o Laura, friend of Dinah, who is battling some cancer treatment concerns.*
- o Gene and Helen Harbaugh as they return home from Montana.*
- o Ken, Divine's friend, and Valeria Carter's niece Sherry.*
- o Strength and endurance for Ed Mathis.*

### ***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.*





**8/19 John Grant**

**8/20 Ralph Miller**

*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:**

- 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](https://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



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

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

Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> is quickly approaching and we're still in need of volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of our great program, please contact Veronica at 575.405.4488, or via email at [secretary@fpc.lc](mailto:secretary@fpc.lc) for more information. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to volunteer!

### **In-Betweeners Coming Up Soon!**

On Friday evening, August 22nd, we'll be getting together for dinner at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered this time, with main dish from Pastaggio's, green salad, rolls, and dessert (\$15/person.)

After dinner, there's something special: the Las Cruces Ukes have agreed to entertain! For planning purposes, please let us know by Monday, 8/18, that you'll be coming. Contact the Ames at [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com), or 575-526-3247.

# Church Bus

Our Church Bus is currently out of service, as it needs the engine replaced. This bus is an important part of our ministry. It allows those who worship with us, who otherwise would not be able to do so, to ride, because our bus has the ability to transport people in wheelchairs. We want to get the bus back in service quickly for all those who depend on our bus.



Because the expense to replace the engine is estimated to be approximately \$5,000, a designated fund account has been established, so the bus can be back in service as quickly as possible. Donations are invited. Please designate “Church Bus” with your donation.

*August*

## Sunday, August 17th

- 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)

## Monday, August 18th

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

## Tuesday, August 19th

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting in Jones Hall Library

## Wednesday, August 20th

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

## Thursday, August 21st

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 5:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall



Friday, August 22nd

*Office Closed*

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

Saturday, August 23rd

Sunday, August 24th

*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*

**Welcome back**

