



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947)

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Robert J. Powell (1932-2025)

"The Love of God" (hymn from 1917)

Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)

"Dance Song"

Sperontes (1705-1750)

Alonzo Brewer, Tuba
Gustavo Morales, Piano

**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

Church Bus
Nomination Committee

Jerry Moser
Steve Loman

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. (Isaiah 58:9b-12 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

MADRID

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Divine Mboh

Leader: Assemble before God, our rock and refuge. Come together to listen for the voice of our Creator.

People: The Word of God shakes the foundation of the earth. We expect to be changed by God’s message to us.

Leader: We remember the rich heritage we have received. We give thanks for God’s grace and mercy.

People: We will delight in the Word and works of our God. We will join together in praise and good works.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#81 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

AUSTRIAN HYMN

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

We are known by You, gracious God, better than we know ourselves. You have given us life and You have renewed our spirits. You have carried us to the heights, and You have dwelled with us in life’s depths. You are our hope and our trust. Touch us here, for You are far beyond our reach. Dwell with us here to lift our aspirations and inspire confidence among us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying ... **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

“Lamb of God”

AGNUS DEI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Life, You come to us as a consuming fire, and the One who has consecrated us before time. You promise us a kingdom that cannot be shaken and call us to serve You with praise and thanksgiving. But we forget, and yield to fear. We trust in the tangible rewards of this world, and neglect Your promises. We confess that we are a divided people; we foster separations and widen rifts in our families, our communities, and in the world. Open us to Your healing. Free us from all that distances us from Your

presence. Give us Your grace and inspire us to serve You with courage; through Jesus Christ who comes to save. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION
ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Promising forgiveness and the sustenance we need to amend our lives, God rejoices in our longing for wholeness.

People: We give thanks that we have been known and forgiven, set free to live the resurrected life of faith.

Leader: God is our rock and our fortress, our refuge and strength.

People: Our faith, hope, and love do not depend on us, but upon Christ Himself. Praise the Lord!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #157 "I Danced in the Morning" LORD OF THE DANCE

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Lon Anderson

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

CALL TO PRAYER #840 "When Peace like a River" VILLE DU HAVRE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "This Is the Day" ESTE ES EL DIA

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Hebrews 12:18-25 Psalm 103:1-8 Dr. Janet Loman

Hebrews 12:18-25 (New Revised Standard Version)

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.")

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!

Psalm 103:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits— who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	"Two Very Different Mountains"	Rev. Nick Koontz
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*CLOSING HYMN	#720 "Jesus Calls Us"	GALILEE
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GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"	GOD BE WITH YOU
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*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck
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<i>Liturgist- Divine Mboh</i>	<i>Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi</i>
<i>Sound System-Max Schroeder</i>	<i>Video-Dina Schroeder</i>

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Tom Marconi-E Donna Marconi-W Kathleen Gardner-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Re. Nick Koontz-E Divine Mboh-W Lon Anderson-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 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 being hosted by Larry & Judy Hicks.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o *Laura, friend of Dinah, who is battling some cancer treatment concerns.*
- o *Sherry, Valeria Carter's niece.*
- o *All those who do not have the many luxuries and sometimes even necessities that we do.*
- o *Steve Harbaugh's family.*

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.



8/24 Eric Burnham

8/25 Margaret Goehring

8/26 Dinah Jentgen

8/26 Roberto Lazo

8/27 Dr. Janet Loman

8/27 Harry Topley

8/29 Susan McCormick

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 or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



CCLI License No. 540727



FPC.LC
Website



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Newsletter Sign-Up



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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



Salt & Light

Salt & Light still needs volunteers for snack time and people to take turns washing tablecloths. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Veronica at 575.405.4488, or via email at secretary@fpc.lc for more information.



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to volunteer!



Church-Wide Yard Sale

This Saturday, August 30th, we will be having a church-wide yard sale in Watkins Fellowship Hall from 9AM-1PM. If you have any last-minute donations, please contact the church office at 575.526-5559. We hope to see you all there!



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 (see announcement)

Monday, August 25th

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

Tuesday, August 26th

Wednesday, August 27th

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

Thursday, August 28th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, August 29th

Office Closed

Saturday, August 30th

- 9:00 AM Church Yard Sale in Watkins Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Sunday, August 31st

- 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

