



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"A Song in Summer"

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

"Living Waters"

Michael Shea (1977)

"As We Gather Around the Table of the Lord" (tune and text by Mark Blankenship, 1974)

Gayden Sikes (b. 1945)

**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

Congregational Meeting Notice

Roni Hardin

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The most ordinary things in life - water, bread, wine - become the sacred signs by which God comes to us. They are not simply reminders of God's love; they are actual events. In baptism we are set free from the slavery of sin and dressed with Christ. In the Lord's supper, our food and drink points to life in Christ. In both these acts we depend entirely and exclusively on the grace of God in Christ. (adapted from "Bread for the Journey" Henri Nouwen)

CHORAL INTROIT

"You Have Put On Christ"

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Trish Carter-Anderson

Leader: "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, And over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

People: **So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; Male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'**"

Leader: As those who bear the likeness and blessing of God as mortals charged with holy purpose, let us worship the one who summons us to life.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #504 "We Come as Guests Invited" WIE LIBLICH IST DER MAIEN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that, believing in the one whom you have sent, we may know him to be the true bread of heaven and food of eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory and honor forever and ever. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION "Search Me, O God" KAM-CHHAT
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your pardon, your sanction of the way we live. We turn away from neighbors in need, sharing fragments that remain only after our cravings have been met. Merciful maker, you created us for better use; remake us now. Where we are distorted re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear and believe the Good News! If anyone is in Christ, there is a new beginning. What was old is past and gone. Everything has become alive with new possibilities. Step forward into fullness of life knowing that your story is known, your sin is forgiven, and your life is made new. Let us live as those reborn.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: What does a Christian believe?

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 of 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 #480 "Take Me to the Water" TAKE ME TO THE WATER
Vs. 1 and 2

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Nick Koontz

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

HYMN OF BAPTISM #480 "Take Me to the Water" TAKE ME TO THE WATER
Vs. 3 and 4

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Dr. Janet Loman

Arthur Dale West, son of Jonathon and Rebekah West

CALL TO PRAYER #474 "As a Child Rests" AS A CHILD RESTS
Congregation to sing refrain
Choral Scholars to sing verses

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing" THE FEAST IS READY

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 23-24 Rev. Nick Koontz

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 23-24 (NRSV)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

Dr. Janet Loman

*COMMUNION HYMN #490 "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

BEACH SPRING

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

"You Have Put On Christ"

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist- Trish Carter-Anderson
Sound System-Curtis Benaway*

*Deacon Captain-Donna Phillips
Video-Rusty Smith*

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Bob Distlehorst-E Donna Marconi-W Veronica Giron-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Veronica Giron-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Trish Carter-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 Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee of Session and Trish Carter-Anderson.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o The family of Mike McClanahan, who passed earlier this week,*
- o The family of Ruben Gutierrez, who passed this week,*
- o Ed and Donna Mathis, as they deal with Ed's health needs.*
- o Sophie Cordova.*
- o David Adouosey and Sofia Reynaldo, family of Paul Deason.*
- o Sherry, Valeria Carter's niece, and for Valeria's sister, Margaret.*

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.

9/7 Sara Kay



9/8 Janet Lemon



Mission Statement: *A place where Christian love is modeled.*

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



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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

We're back!! This Wednesday September 10th our fall semester begins with an afternoon filled with fun. Dinner will be tacos, beans, chips & salsa, and popsicles for dessert. We're so excited and hope to see everyone there!



Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle is transitioning to a Bible study group, beginning on Tuesday, September 9th. Come to the Jones Hall Library at 9:30 AM for a social time, then the Bible study will begin promptly at 10:00. Gracia Class will lead us in studying the Book of Joshua and its application to our lives today. Anyone with questions is welcome to call Helen Moser, 575.647.3365, or Gracia Class, 575.650.7113.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on
Sunday, September 14th
immediately following our Worship Service.

Thank you to everyone who donated or volunteered to help
make our yard sale a success! You are very much
appreciated!



Sunday, September 7th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer, viewing "The Chosen" series, Season 5
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 Ice Cream Social and Sing-Along (see announcement)

Monday, September 8th

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

Tuesday, September 9th

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle (see announcement)
7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, September 10th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
9:30 AM Staff Meeting (office will be closed during this time)
4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 11th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor, reflection on scripture for Sunday
6:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, September 5th

Office Closed

Saturday, September 6th

12:00 PM Lela York Wedding Anniversary in Watkins Hall

Sunday, September 7th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer, viewing "The Chosen" series, Season 5

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

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