



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 14, 2025 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"O Lord, I have Transgressed" (Reformation chorale)

Friedrich Wilhelm Marpurg (1718-1795)

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" (hymn tune of 1880) Norman Johnson (1877-1952)

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Robert James Hughes (1916-1999)

****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

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:15-17 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Heaven Is Singing for Joy"

ALEGRIA

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Yolanda Koontz

Leader: Remember Your promises to us, O God. Create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits.
People: **We seek to know You and to grow in understanding. Confront us here and light our way out of the void.**

Leader: We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth; we reach out to be strengthened for service.

People: Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our sin. Restore us in the way of righteousness.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #12 “Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

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

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day, You are Lord; and when chaos threatens to overwhelm— still, You are Lord. Always You are creating, redeeming, sustaining. Speak then Your mercy into this place until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of Your grace; for we long to honor the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray by 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

“Lord, Have Mercy”
Chancel Choir

SINGAPURA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect of this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. In judgment, illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us home— until we recognize Your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: This we call to mind, and therefore have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

People: God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Leader:

God is our portion and our hope, in Christ our sin is forgiven.

People: May our mouths be filled with grateful praise, just as our hearts are filled with unmerited grace.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #649 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER #703 “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

ST. CATHERINE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“God’s Mercy”

Zollene Reissner

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 1 (Robert Alter Translation) Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)

Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 1 (Robert Alter Translation)

Happy the man who has not walked in the wicked's counsel, Nor in the way of offenders has stood, Nor in the session of scoffers has sat. But the LORD's teaching is his desire, And His teaching he murmurs day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by streams of water, That bears its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither--Not so the wicked, But like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand up in judgment, Nor offenders in the band of the righteous. For the LORD embraces the way of the righteous, And the way of the wicked is lost.

Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Gettin' Saved"

Rev. Nick Koontz

*CLOSING HYMN

#39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Heaven Is Singing for Joy"

ALEGRIA

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship Service, for nomination and election of members to the pastoral search committee.

Liturgist- Yolanda Koontz
Sound System-Jonathan West

Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O'Neal
Video-Will Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Donna Marconi-W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Yolanda Koontz-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Erin Taylor-S

Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation	Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. Pastor, College Ministry
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist	Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor/Visitation
Giron	Salt & Light Coord.	Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Office Manager
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 the
Buildings & Grounds Committee of Session

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *The Gardner family as they process the loss of Kathleen's father-in-law.*
- *The Gutierrez family in the passing of Diana's father Ruben.*
- *The family of Mike McClanahan.*
- *Ed and Donna Mathis, as they deal with Ed's health needs.*
- *Those in our lives that are aging.*
- *Sophie Cordova.*
- *David Adouosey and Sofia Reynaldo, family of Paul Deason.*
- *Sherry, Valeria Carter's niece, and for Valeria's sister, Margaret.*

Continued Prayer List

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.



JUST FAMILY FUN.com

9/15 Heather Spencer

9/15 Paul Green

9/15 Penelope Printz

9/16 Will Schroeder
Korang
9/16 Brian Otto

9/16 Elsa Aninwaa

9/20 Sharon Rooney



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:

- 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:

- Cash or check in the purple offering box.
- Check sent by mail.
- Online at fpc.lc/giving or via the QR code on the right.
- Using the app "Church Center".



FPC.LC
Website

FPC.LC/News
Newsletter Sign-Up

FPC.LC/Calendar
Online Church Calendar

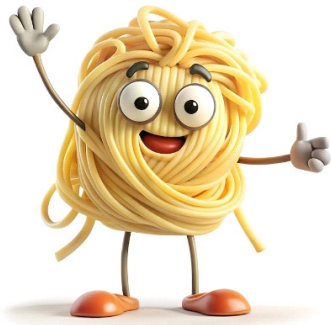
FPC.LC/Sermons
Livestream and/or
Replay Worship Services

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

Salt & Light



This Wednesday September 17th we're *Sticking our Neck out for Jesus*. Dinner will be fettuccini alfredo, garlic bread, salad, and chocolate pudding for dessert. See you all there!

In-Betweeners for September

On our regular fourth Friday, 9/26, we'll be getting together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 P.M. Dinner this time will be a planned potluck, so be thinking about a dish!

Please let us know by Monday, September 22nd, that you plan to come. Contact the Ames at 575-526-3247 or jkames@q.com.





Sunday, September 14th

- 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 Fellowship in Jones Hall (see announcement)

Monday, September 15th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 3:30 PM Storytellers of Las Cruces in Jones Hall
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 16th

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting in Jones Hall

Wednesday, September 17th

- 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 18th

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

Friday, September 19th

Office Closed

Saturday, September 20th

Sunday, September 21st

- 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 Fellowship in Jones Hall