



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 21, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Homer Whitford (1892-1980)

"How Gentle God's Commands"

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

"I Will Serve Thee Because I Love Thee" (hymn by William J. Gaither, 1969)

Robert J. 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Potluck Announcement

Stephen Taylor

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2: 5-6)

CHORAL INTROIT

"What Does the Lord Require of You?"

MOON

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Montgomery

(Psalm 113: 4-8)

Leader: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

People: The LORD is exalted over all the nations, His glory above the heavens.

Leader: Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

People: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes, with the princes of His people.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #331 "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

NATIONAL HYMN

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

God of the prophets, we are grateful to worship in Your house today and to hear Your words to us. We are reminded that You see each one of us and that You watch over Your people. No one is ignored or forgotten in Your eyes, no matter how insignificant we may be in the eyes of the world. You are a God of justice and mercy. You have given us the resources that we need. Help us to hear Your words and to put Your justice into practice. 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 “For the Troubles and the Sufferings” PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

How long, LORD? Will You be angry forever? How long will Your jealousy burn like fire? Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge You, on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name. Do not hold against us the sins of past generations; may Your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of Your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake. (Psalm 79: 5-6, 8-9)

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear and take comfort: God does not leave us on our own. He has sent his Son, Jesus, to follow the commandments that we could not and to take away the sins that separate us from him. We have been forgiven and restored.

People: **Thanks be to God! With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we live as God would have us live.**

Leader: What does God require of us in the commandment, “You shall not steal”?

People: **That we do whatever we can for our neighbor's good, that we treat others as we would like them to treat us, and that we work faithfully so that we may share with those in need.**

(paraphrased from Heidelberg Catechism #110)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #352 “My Lord! What a Morning” MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
Congregation to sing refrain
Choral Scholars to sing verses

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

BIBLE PRESENTATION

Lillian Brewer

CALL TO PRAYER

“For the Troubles and the Sufferings”
Chancel Choir

PELAS DORES DESTA MUNDO

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Arr. Emily Lund

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Amos 8:4-7 Luke 16:1-13

Dr. Catherine Brewer

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, “When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?”—skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. The LORD has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.” (NIV)

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth,

who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (NIV)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "God's Gifts as a Means to Service" Dr. Catherine Brewer

*CLOSING HYMN #351 "All Who Love and Serve Your City" CHARLESTOWN

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "May the God of Hope Go with Us" ARGENTINA

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist- Eric Montgomery

Deacon Captain- Dawn Griffin O'Neal

Sound System-Rusty Smith

Video-Brent Brewer

*Greeting before the Worship Service:
Kathleen Gardner-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:
Eric Montgomery-E Dr. Catherine Brewer-W Amon 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
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
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. There will be cake, along with other goodies, in celebration of Sharon Rooney's 90th birthday.

Fellowship is being hosted by Sharon, with the assistance of the Music & Worship Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o Donna Curtis.*
- o The Gardner family, as they process the loss of Kathleen's father-in-law.*
- o The Gutierrez family, in the passing of Diana's father Ruben.*
- o The family of Michael McCalahan.*
- o Ed and Donna Mathis, as they deal with Ed's health needs.*
- o Those in our lives who are aging.*
- o 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.

Welcome

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”.



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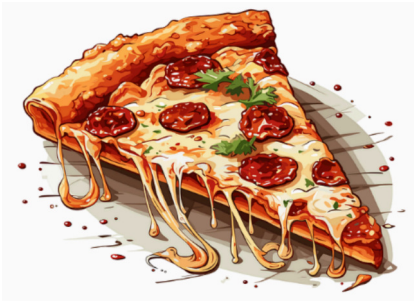
More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

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

This Wednesday, September 24th,

That's Amore; Jesus Loves You! Will be our theme, and it's Pizza Night!

Dinner will be pizza, salad with dressing, and cupcakes for dessert.

International Potluck

Sunday, October 5th, is World Communion Sunday and our International Potluck. Please plan to attend Worship, celebrate our unity and diversity, and join together for a meal following the service in Watkins Fellowship Hall.

In-Betweeners for September

On our regular fourth Friday, 9/26, we'll be getting together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. 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.

Mark Your Calendars

A **flute and piano recital** will be held in our sanctuary on September 28th, starting at 2 PM. Our own Vicki Kuyper will be the flutist, and Mike Rafferty will be the pianist. Music by Chaminade, Mozart, Hübner, Gossec, Fauré, Labenske, Khachaturian, and Joplin.



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 (see announcement)

Monday, September 22nd

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

Tuesday, September 23rd

Wednesday, September 24th

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

Thursday, September 25th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor, reflection on scripture for Sunday
- 6:00 PM Camino Middle School Choir in the Sanctuary

Friday, September 26th

Office Closed

Saturday, September 27th

2:00 PM Vicki Kuyper dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday, September 28th

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

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