



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 28, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace"

Robert James Hughes (1916-1999)

"Under His Wings" (hymn of 1896)

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

Air, from the oratorio **Lazarus** – Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

(organ setting by Albert George Emerick, 1878)

**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

For we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:7-12 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Fight the Good Fight"

DUKE STREET

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Phillips

Leader: We gather to worship God, who richly provides us with all things.

People: **God, who made heaven and earth, keeps faith forever.**

Leader: Give thanks to the one who dwells in unapproachable light.

People: We will pour out our thankfulness in words and deeds.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

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

Eternal God, whose will for humankind is that we live within your rule of love, call us out of our preoccupation with riches to sense our common plight with all who suffer. Help us to identify with rich and poor alike as your children, that through mutual care and compassion we might grow toward your eternal Kingdom. May we hear and heed your life-changing warnings and promises. We pray all this in the Name of Jesus Christ 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

"O Lord, Have Mercy"
Chancel Choir

ORE PORIAJU VEREKO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Dressed in fine linen, we feast every day, while others long to satisfy their hunger. We have Moses and the prophets, yet we remain unconvinced, waiting for some human warning. Forgive us. In your mercy, convince and comfort us, and lead us to righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Through Christ we are carried away by the angels and comforted by Father Abraham.

People: Thanks be to God for hunger satisfied, agony cooled, and sins forgiven.

Leader: In Jesus Christ is the resurrection of the dead.

People: In Him, we bridge the great chasm between us.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#291 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

SPIRIT

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#839 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

ASSURANCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Poor Man Laz'rus"

Arr. Buen Suerte

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 146 (Robert Alter Translation), Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)

Dr. Janet Loman

Psalm 146 (Robert Alter Translation)

Hallelujah. Praise the LORD, O my being! Let me praise the LORD while I live, Let me hymn to my God while I breathe. Do not trust in princes, In a human who offers no rescue. His breath departs, he returns to the dust. On that day his plans are naught. Happy whose help is Jacob's God,

Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and of all that is in them, Who keeps faith forever, Does justice for the oppressed, Gives bread to the hungry, The LORD looses those in fetters. The LORD gives sight to the blind. The LORD makes the bent stand erect. The LORD loves the righteous. The LORD guards sojourners, Orphan and widow He sustains But the way of the wicked contorts. The LORD shall reign forever, Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Hallelujah.

Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers--that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of

torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	“The Rich Man and Lazarus”	Rev. Nick Koontz
*CLOSING HYMN	#459 “O Word of God Incarnate”	MUNICH

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“Amen”	DRESDEN AMEN
*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck

<i>Liturgist-Donna Phillips</i>	<i>Deacon Captain- Dawn Griffin O’Neal</i>
<i>Sound System-Max Schroeder</i>	<i>Video-Dina Schroeder</i>

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Dawn Griffin O’Neal-E Helen Moser-S Sharon Rooney-W

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Debra Smith-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Donna Phillips-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. This is a great time to visit with old and new friends alike. Fellowship this morning is being hosted by the Deacons Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o Donna Curtis.*
- o The family of 6th grader Christian Delgado-Florez who passed following a car accident.*
- o Ed and Donna Mathis, as they deal with Ed's health needs.*
- 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.

9/29 Linda Pearson

9/29 Cynthia Watkins

9/30 Marsha Topley



10/1 Sarah Loman

10/2 Pat Felhauer

10/3 Izak Armendariz



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

This Wednesday, October 1st, let's
Get fired up for Jesus (red or green?)

Dinner will be green chicken enchiladas, beans, rice and, cookies for dessert.
See you there!

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.

Mark Your Calendars

A **flute and piano recital** will be held in our Sanctuary this afternoon, starting at 2 PM. Our own Vicki Kuyper will be the flutist, and Mike Rafferty will be the pianist. Music by Chaminade, Mozart, Hüe, Gossec, Fauré, Labenske, Khachaturian, and Joplin.



Sunday, September 28th

- 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)
- 2:00 PM Vicki Kuper recital in the Sanctuary (see announcement)

Monday, September 29th

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

Tuesday, September 30th

Wednesday, October 1st

- 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, October 2nd

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

Friday, October 3rd

Office Closed

Saturday, October 4th

Sunday, October 5th

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

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