



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 19, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Where He Leads Me I Will Follow" ("I Can Hear My Savior Calling") (hymn from 1882)

Robert J. Powell (1932-2025)

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" (19th-century chorale) Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

"All the Way My Savior Leads Me" Van Denman Thompson (1890-1969)

**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

Trunk or Treat

Stephen Taylor

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

(2 Timothy 4:1-5 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT
HYMN

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

ITALIAN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Phillips

Leader: We gather to honor our covenant with God. We gather to worship the God who has covenanted with us.

People: Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth. Our wisdom comes from the one who meets us here.

Leader: Open your eyes to meet God face to face. Open your ears to hear God's instruction.

People: God takes us by the hand to lead us. The Word of God is written on our hearts.

*HYMN OF PRAISE
QUALIA

#369 "Blessing and Honor"

O QUANTA

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

Sow your seed in our midst, O God, for we are prepared to receive what you offer. We want to know you and to bear fruit for your reign among us. We want to meditate on your law and keep your commandments. Draw us into the new covenant you have fashioned for us in Jesus Christ so that we may fulfill our ministry. We pray all this in the Name of the One 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
VEREKO

"O Lord, Have Mercy"

ORE PORIAJU

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess, O God, that we are not eager to wrestle with you or to take responsibility for sin in our lives. We see ourselves as basically decent, respectable people. Yet we have bent your commandments to our own conveniences. We listen only to the word we want to hear. We participate in the greed that is destroying your good earth, and we allow evil to triumph through our neglect. Shake us into awareness that brings change, and support us, we pray, on the difficult path toward greater faithfulness.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is the only judge of the living

and the dead, we give thanks for the gift of forgiveness.

People: **By the grace of Christ, we will be persistent in the life of faith to which we are called.**

Leader: In this way, God gives us not just a second chance but a new beginning.

People: **We walk in the newness of life through faith in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#664 "Morning Has Broken"

BUNESSAN

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN PRAYING

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Be Thou My Vision"

Arr. Alice Parker

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis, 32:22-31 Luke, 18:1-8

Scott Burns

Genesis, 32:22-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Luke, 18:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"God of our Bad Days"

Rev. Nick Koontz

*CLOSING HYMN

#686 "God of Our Life"

SANDON

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

#288 "Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist- Donna Phillips Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O'Neal
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Diana Howard-E Jim Parks-W Bill & Ruth Akins-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

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

Deacons' Hamburger Fry

Join us for the Deacons' Annual Hamburger Fry following Worship this morning over in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Donations will be accepted for the work of the Deacons in our church and community. This is the Deacons' only fundraising activity each year.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o *The family of Wayne Maley, who passed on October 5th.*
- o *Sherry, friend of Amber Nolan.*
- o *Ed and Donna Mathis, as they deal with Ed's health needs.*
- o *Larry, Valeria Carter's nephew.*
- o *The safety and peace throughout our schools and communities.*

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.

10/19 Laura Jean Conniff

10/19 Donna Farmer

10/20 Larry Felhauer



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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Online Church Calendar

FPC.LC/Sermons
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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, October 22nd, we are giving our *Hats off to our volunteers*. Dinner will be pizza, salad with ranch dressing, and cupcakes for dessert.



It's Trunk or Treat Time!

Trunk or Treat is upon us! See how you can help make this year successful by signing up on the page in your bulletin. Please complete the form, and drop it in one of the purple offering boxes.



In-Betweeners

In-Betweeners will be getting together on our regular fourth Friday, October 24th, in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner

this time will be catered. Eric Montgomery has agreed to speak to us on the pros and cons of the Jupiter Project, the huge data center planned for the southern part of our county. Please let us know by Monday, October 20th, that you plan to come. Call or text the Ames at 575-636-0210, or email jkames@q.com.

The New Horizons Symphony Orchestra

The New Horizons Symphony Orchestra is performing today Sunday, October 19th, at 3:00 PM in the Atkinson Recital Hall at NMSU. The concert will feature four guest piano soloists. Vicki Kuyper and Rusty Smith play in this orchestra. Admission is free.



Sunday, October 19th

- 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 Deacons' Hamburger Fry in Watkins Hall (see announcement)*
- 3:00 PM New Horizons Symphony Orchestra Concert (see announcement)*

Monday, October 20th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News*
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal in the Choir Room*

Tuesday, October 21st

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting in Jones Hall*

Wednesday, October 22nd

- 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 23rd

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

Friday, October 24th

Office Closed

6:00 PM In-Betweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Sunday, October 26th

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

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