



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 9, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Under His Wings" (by Ira D. Sankey)

"If You Will Only Let God Guide You"

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Norman Johnson (1877-1952)

Ammon Matthew (Matt) Limbaugh (b. 1949)

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

****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

In-Gathering

Holly Dalager

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Oft have I seen at some cathedral door, a laborer, pausing in the dust and heat, lay down his burden, and with reverent feet, enter . . . far off noises of the world retreat, become an indistinguishable roar. So, I enter here from day to day, and leave my burden by this minister gate, kneeling in prayer and not ashamed to pray . . . while the eternal ages watch and wait."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CHORAL INTROIT

"O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

LYONS

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vicki Kuyper

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We call upon the Lord, for our God will answer us.

People: The Lord will incline his ear towards us and hear our words.

Leader: The Lord is our Savior. He protects those who seek refuge in Him.

People: From God comes our vindication. He delivers us from all evil.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Lord, as we gather to worship you, we ask that you would guide our hearts into good works and our minds to worthy plans. Help us to hear what you have to say to us in the special places deep within us. Help us to bring forth from the faith we have, songs of praise and words of adoration. Transform this time for us so that it becomes a time in which we grow stronger in trust and faith in you. Even as we pray the prayer that Christ taught his disciples, 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 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 OF CONFESSION

#430 "Remember Not, O God"

SOUTHWELL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess to you, O Lord, our past unfaithfulness and the impatience of our lives. We confess our anger and frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than us. We confess our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. Accept our repentance, we pray, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty. Accept our repentance, we pray, for all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us. Restore us, good Lord, and let our anger depart from us. Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God remains with us. God is with us here, now and forever.

People: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Leader: So, we trust in God's unwavering love and forgiveness.

People: In Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#337 "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

AMERICA

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Nick Koontz

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#468 "In My Life "

LORD, BE GLORIFIED

PASTORAL PRAYER: Gratitude to God for our Veterans

Rev. Larry Hicks

ANTHEM

"Autumn Carol"

Setting by Russell Schulz-Widmar

Handbells: Hannah Dalager, Amon Taylor, and Rebekah West

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Luke 20:27-40 (NRSV) Rev. Nick Koontz

Haggai 1:15b - 2:9 (NRSV)

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say: Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; hap take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of the house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

LUKE 20:27-40 (NRSV)

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her." Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.” Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” For they no longer dared to ask him another question.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Best of Times, Worst of Times” Rev. Larry Hicks

*CLOSING HYMN #49 “The God of Abraham Praise” LEONI

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL 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; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Vicki Kuyper Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O’Neal
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:
Robert Distlehorst-E Kathleen Gardner-W Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:
Rev. Nick Koontz-E Rev. Larry Hicks-W Vicki Kuyper-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 Administration and Finance Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o The family of Francis Aidoo, in the passing of his brother.*
- o Sherry, friend of Amber Nolan.*
- o Ed and Donna Mathis, as they cope with Ed's health needs.*
- o Larry and Mae, Valeria Carter's nephew and sister.*

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.

Happy Birthday

11/11 Marjorie Burr



11/14 Judi Ferguson



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, November 12th, we're *Falling for Jesus*.
Dinner will be Haystacks, and ice cream sandwiches for dessert.



Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will be meeting in the Jones Hall Library on Tuesday, November 12th at 9:30 AM. We are continuing our study of the Bible book of Matthew with leader Gracia Class. All women are invited to join us for a morning of exploration and conversation. Please contact Helen Moser at 575.647.336 with any questions.



In-Gathering

Next Sunday, November 16th, we will have our annual Thanksgiving In-Gathering of canned and non-perishable foods during our Worship service. There will be a special time during the service when our offerings will be presented in front of the communion table. The deacons will make arrangements for the foods to be taken to La Casa de Peregrinos food bank. Thank you for helping to continue this tradition.



Honor Choir Concert

On Saturday, November 15th, at 12:00 PM, there will be a special concert in our Sanctuary. The Las Cruces Public Schools will be presenting the first annual Middle School Honor Choir. These talented young singers were auditioned and accepted into this honorable ensemble. Beth Thomas will be the guest conductor for this event, for which the students will rehearse together all day on Friday the 14th, and Saturday morning prior to the concert. Also included on the Saturday noon concert will be the Centennial High School choir under the direction of Jeonai Batista, Choral Scholar here at FPC. The Centennial Choir won the 2025 State Championship of 5A New Mexico Choirs and will be the featured NM All-State Honor Choir in January of 2026.

The concert is free and open to the public.



November

Sunday, November 9th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, "Parables in the Bible," led by Rev. Larry Hicks
- 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 Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, November 10th

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

Tuesday, November 11th

- 9:45 AM Mary Martha Bible Study in Jones Hall Library
- 7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, November 12th

- 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, November 13th

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

Friday, November 14th

Office Closed

All-day Honor Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Saturday, November 15th

All -morning Honor Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

12:00 PM Honor Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 16th

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