



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 16, 2025 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Refrain Thy Voice from Weeping" (from the oratorio *The Light of the World* by Arthur Seymour Sullivan, 1842-1900) setting by Chester Nordman (1895-1973)

"Work, for the Night Is Coming" (American hymn of 1864)

Emma Louise Ashford (1850-1937)

"Jesus Shall Reign" (hymn tune of 1793)

Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)

****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

They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. (Luke 21: 12-15)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

AUSTRIAN HYMN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bill Kuyper

(Isaiah 12:4-6)

Leader: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;

People: **Make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

People: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Creator God, we join our voices with those of the children of Israel, praising you for the blessings that you bestowed on them then and that you bestow on us now. You have given us places to live, food to eat, people to love, resources to share, and meaningful work to do. You have protected us from danger. You have guided us through difficult times. Above all, you have given us Jesus to rebuild our relationship with you as your children. As Jesus taught his disciples to pray, so we pray now: **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 OF CONFESSION

"Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us"
Chancel Choir

KYRIE ELEISON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Throughout the Bible, Your Word has provided instructions for how we are to live and promises of the blessings you have in store for us. We admit that we have not followed these instructions and we have not remembered your promises. We balk at the work that is monotonous, unpleasant, or difficult. We want things to happen in our way and in our time. We tire and complain when we do not see the results we were looking for. We have squabbled over power and control instead of serving to the best of our abilities. Help us to turn back to Your Word and devote our time and energy to those things that You would have us do.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear and take comfort: Jesus has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. When God looks at us, He sees Jesus' perfect obedience and willing sacrifice. 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 it mean when we pray, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"?

People: We are asking God to help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey God's will without any back talk. God's will alone is good. We ask that God help us carry out the work we are called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven. (paraphrased from Heidelberg Catechism #124)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Morningdance"

Arr. Cathy Mokolbust

Bells of Praise

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO IN-GIVING AND PRAYER #523 “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” BICENTENNIAL

Congregation to sing refrain

Choral Scholars to sing verses

During the hymn, please come forward with your In-Gathering offerings

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him”

Arr. Lloyd Larson

Vicki Kuyper, Flute & Holly Dalager, Oboe

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Isaiah 65:17-25 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Dr. Catherine Brewer

Isaiah 65:17-25(NSRV)

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (NRSV)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not

idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

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

SERMON		Dr. Catherine Brewer
*CLOSING HYMN	#683 “Lord of all Hopefulness”	COURTNEY

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION		
*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him”	Arr. Llyod Larson
*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Bill Kuyper Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O’Neal
Sound System-Brent Brewer Video-Will Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Kathleen Gardner-E Patrick Cummings-W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Bill Kuyper-E Dr. Catherine Brewer-W Debra Smith-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
Mary Maley	Administration & Finance		

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 Chancel Choir and Music & Worship Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *Jennifer Billings' mother who is currently recovering.*
- *Sherry, friend of Amber Nolan.*
- *Ed and Donna Mathis, as they cope with Ed's health needs.*
- *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.



11/17 Thomas Morehart

Happy Birthday

11/18 Stephen Taylor

11/20 Carol Goss



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”.

CCLI License No. 540727



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, November 19th, *Count Your Blessings*.
Dinner will be pizza, Caesar salad, and cupcakes for dessert.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship this coming Sunday, November 23rd, to approve the slate of officers presented. Volunteers for any of the vacant positions are still being accepted by the nominating committee. (Roni Hardin, Blaine Goss, Dinah Jentgen, Vicki Kuyper, Steve Loman, or Rusty Smith)

Elders

These Elders and Deacons will be ordained in January, 2026

Slate of church officers for 2028

Erin Taylor (CE)
Nancy Cowan (Missions)
Steve Loman (Admin)
Roni Hardin (M & W)
Janet Mara (Missions)
VACANT (CLOS)
Jeanette Smith (Admin)* Completing vacated term thru 2026

Deacons

Susan Mboh
Devine Mboh
VACANT
Joyce Nolan
Wisdom Mwale
Emily Mwale
Donald Rosette (Admin)

At Large Nominating Committee

Paul Green
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT

On November 22nd we invite you all to come out and see our very own Holly Dalager perform as a soloist in the NMSU Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert will be at Atkinson Recital Hall at 3:00 PM. Admission is free. We hope to see you all there!



November

Sunday, November 16th

- 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*
- 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal*
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary*
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)*

Monday, November 17th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News*
- 3:30 PM Storytellers of Las Cruces in Jones Hall Library*
- 7:00 PM Bell Rehearsal in the Choir Room*

Tuesday, November 18th

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting in Jones Hall Library*

Wednesday, November 19th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin*
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)*
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal*

Thursday, November 20th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor, reflection on Scripture for Sunday*
- 5:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor*

Friday, November 21st

- Office Closed*
- 9:30 AM LCPS Middle School Honor Choir rehearsal*

Saturday, November 22nd

- 12:00 PM Honor Choir and Centennial High School Concert*

Sunday, November 23rd

- 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

9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary

11:30 AM Congregational Meeting

11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall