



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1st Sunday of Advent¹

November 30, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Flor Peeters

(1903-1986)

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (Yiddish folk tune) Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates" (19th-century hymn tune) Jan Bender

(1909-1994)

****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

I rejoiced in those who said to me: "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Our feet were standing in your gates, Jerusalem. Jerusalem built like a town that is joined fast together, where the tribes go up, the tribes of Yah. An ordinance it is for Israel to acclaim the name of the LORD. For there the thrones of judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for Jerusalem's weal. May your lovers rest tranquil! May there be well-being within your ramparts, tranquility in your palaces. For the sake of my brothers and my companions, let me speak, pray of your weal. For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, let me seek your good. - Psalm 122 (Robert Alter Translation)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Jim O'Neal & Dawn

Griffin-O'Neal

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

Reader 2: For the Lord will fulfill his promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹ "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

A righteous Branch will spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

CHORAL INTROIT

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Leah Mathe

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Phillips

(Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

People: **Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND LORDS PRAYER (unison)

Merciful God, you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths. You encourage us with signs of your coming and urge us to keep watch, that we might greet you with heads raised high when you come to restore all creation. Watching and waiting, we pray for this world that needs your saving power.

For nations at war,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.
For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.
For all who live in worry or fear,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.
For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.
For those who have never heard of your rescuing love,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.
For all those who have lost hope, or never had it at all,
in your mercy, Lord, save us.

We pray, too, for your church in the world, that we may increase in ardor for you and your children, and work in confidence for your coming reign. Now by the power of the Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful, that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day, through 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 OF CONFESSION #91 “Come, Come Emmanuel” COME, COME EMMANUEL
Chancel Choir sing through one time
Congregation join the second time

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: The Lord is our righteousness. In Christ, we are forgiven.

People: The day of our salvation is near. Let us stay awake.

Leader: May we be found faithful in love and watchful in prayer.

People: Come Lord Jesus, our Rescuer and Redeemer.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #86 “The People Who Walked in Darkness” ISAIAH 9
Choral Scholars sing verses
Congregation sing refrain

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Judith Ames
• Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER “Come Now, O Prince of Peace” O-SO-SO
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “O Come, O Come Immanuel” Natalie Sleeth

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 Rev. Nick Koontz

Romans 13:11-14 (NSRV)

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV)

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Between Two Advents”

Rev. Nick Koontz

*CLOSING HYMN

#106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

WAITING

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

WAITING

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Donna Phillips

Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O’Neal

Sound System-Rusty Smith

Video-Jonathan West

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-E Donna Marconi-W Bob Distlehorst-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Rev. Nick Koontz-E Judith Ames-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
Mary Maley	Moderator, 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 Christian Education Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o Everyone traveling this holiday season.*
- o Marty Pope and Randy Granger.*
- o Gilbert (Alex) Lucero as he awaits surgery.*
- o Tre, the daughter-in-law of Nancy Cowan, as she awaits surgery.*
- o Jacque Parks, as she recovers from surgery.*

Continued Prayer List

Ed Mathis; Barb Wolflick; Amber Nolan; Sherry Lindsey; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Rev. Dave Schrueder; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, Don Niewold, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.

11/30 Rev. Nick Koontz

12/6 Mary Ferguson



12/2 Jean Nganou

12/6 Susan Trumble

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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Website

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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, December 3rd, our theme is *Christmas*. Dinner will be penne pasta with meat sauce, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and ice cream sundaes for dessert.

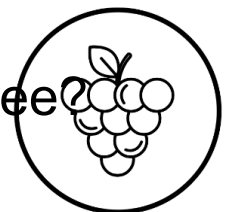
Los Pastores

Los Pastores will be performing in the Sanctuary on
Friday, December 5th, at 6:00 PM.

Advent Sundays Scavenger Hunt

Every Sunday during Advent we will be having a scavenger hunt. This Sunday's scavenger hunt:

Can you find the Communion Chrismon on the tree?



Christmas Cantata

On Sunday, December 14th please join us for a morning filled with wonderful music featuring the Chancel Choir and Bells of Praise. Worship Service will begin at 10:30 AM.



Christmas Eve Service



This year we will be having a Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th at 6:00 PM.

December



Sunday, November 30th

- 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
- 9:00 AM New Member Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor
- 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)

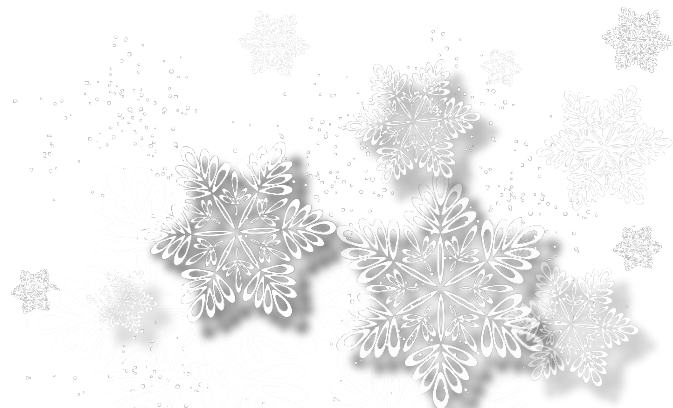
Monday, December 1st

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

Tuesday, December 2nd

Wednesday, December 3rd

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



Thursday, December 4th

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

6:30 PM *Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Hall Library*

Friday, December 5th

Office Closed

6:00 PM *Los Pastores in the Sanctuary (see announcement)*

Saturday, December 6th

10:00 AM *Alex Martinez Memorial Reception in Watkins Hall*

Sunday, December 7th

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 Hall*