



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

2nd Sunday of Advent – Peace

December 7, 2025 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Michael Burkhardt (b.

1957)

“Come Thou, Blest Dayspring”

Stewart Landon (1912-

1988)

“The King Shall Come”

David N. Johnson (1922-

1987)

\*\*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

Listen to my words, O Lord; attend to my sighing. Listen to the sound of my cry, my king and my God, for to you I pray. O Lord in the morning you hear my voice; In the morning I plead my case to you and watch. For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you. The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evil doers. You destroy those who speak lies; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful. But I through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house; I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; Make your way straight before me. Psalm 5:1-8

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Maley

Marianne and Mary

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the purity of heart only God can bring.

Reader 2: For he shall purify his people like gold and silver, until they shine forth his righteousness.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## CHORAL INTROIT

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

DOWN AMPNEY

Leah Mathe and Jeonai Batista

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
Burns

Scott

Leader: The Lord is coming to his temple.  
**People:** **We watch and wait for his coming.**  
Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #105 "People, Look East"

BESANCON

\*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (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.

We pray for peace in every nation-  
that hatred and ill will in the hearts of all people,  
will be burned away in your refining fire, leaving only love.

We pray for peace in Christ's body-  
put an end to fear and fighting, that we may proclaim your good news  
and be awake to your presence.

We pray for peace in this place-  
for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors,  
and for the health of family and friends.

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign, when you will bring everlasting peace and renew the face of the earth; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

CALL TO CONFESSION

#91 "Come, Come Emmanuel"  
Chancel Choir sing through one time  
Congregation join the second time

COME, COME EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.

**People: The One who began good work in us will bring it to completion.**

Leader: Grateful for the promise of joy and peace,  
let us share that peace with one another.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE  
STUTTGART

#83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

## CELEBRATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

David and Jane VanderVelde

(Elders currently serving on Session will greet our new church family members while the congregation stands to sing hymn # 306, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds", vs. 1-2)

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
Christian love. The fellowship of  
kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our  
ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

## GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

Debra Smith

CALL TO PRAYER

"Be Still and Know that I am God"

PSALM 46

Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

GENEVAN 42

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Malachi 3:1-4    Luke 21:25-28

Scott Burns

Malachi 3:1-4 (NSRV)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years

Luke 21:25-28 (NRSV)

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Preparing for Redemption"

Dr. Janet Loman

\*COMMUNION HYMN

#533 "In the Singing"

BREAD OF PEACE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Today our Communion service will be a hybrid. We will serve and pass trays in all three sections. And there will be pre-packaged Communion kits

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER**  
**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.**

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

#### BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	"While We Are Waiting, Come"	WAITING
*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Scott Burns      Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O'Neal  
Sound System-Curtis Beneway      Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:  
Bob Distlehorst-E   Donna Marconi-W   Kathleen Gardner-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:  
Scott Burns-E   Debra Smith-W   Verna Green-S*

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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

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### Members of Session

Steve Loman	Moderator of the Session	Dr. Paul Deason	Moderator, Missions
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Alice Distlehorst	Music & Worship
Roni Hardin	Moderator, Music & Worship
Diana Howard	Co-Moderator, Congregational Life
Bruce Pearson	Congregational Life
Stephen Taylor	Co-Moderator, Congregational Life
Linda Ward	Moderator, Buildings & Grounds
*Mary Maley	Moderator, Administration

Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session
Patrick Cummings	Moderator, Christian Ed.
Yolanda Koontz	Christian Education
Jerry Moser	Buildings & Grounds
Jimmy O'Neal	Administration & Finance
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 Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee of Session.

## *Please Remember in Your Prayers*

- *Everyone traveling this holiday season.*
- *Prayers for all those to whom the Christmas season is difficult. For those who have lost loved ones, who are not close to their families, many of our veterans and active-duty folks, many of our students and international families, and more.*
- *New marriages and more seasoned marriages alike. May God bless the unions He has gifted us.*
- *Brian Stewart, James Leyba, Scott Sherman, Marty Pope, Randy Granger and Johnny Montenegro.*
- *Gilbert (Alex) Lucero as he awaits surgery.*
- *Tre, the daughter-in-law of Nancy Cowan, as she awaits surgery.*

## *Continued Prayer List*

*Jacque Parks; Ed Mathis; Barb Wolffick; 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.*



12/13 Roni Hardin  
*Welcome*

**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

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



CCLI License

No. 540727



More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](http://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**

On Wednesday, Dec. 10 the Salt & Light students invite you to their

Annual Christmas Pageant, A Sing-a-Long of Christmas Carols.

Salt & Light will be on an amended schedule with start and stop times the same. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM with the pageant beginning at 6:20 PM.

Dinner will be homemade chicken noodle soup, garden salad, rolls, and warm peach cobbler for dessert. Please call in a reservation if you'll be coming for dinner. We hope to see you all there!



### **Advent Sundays Scavenger Hunt**

Every Sunday during Advent we will be having a scavenger hunt.

This Sunday's scavenger hunt:

Can you find the Noah's Ark Communion Chrismon on the tree?





# GOODBYE

## Fellowship

On Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a special Fellowship for Rev. Nick. It will be a Farewell and Best Wishes fellowship. Please join us to show Nick how much we appreciate him.

### Mary Martha Bible Study

*Mary Martha Bible Study Group is going to meet at Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant on University Avenue for their annual Christmas luncheon December 9th at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to Helen Moser, 575.647.3365 by Sunday, December 7th. All ladies are invited to attend.*

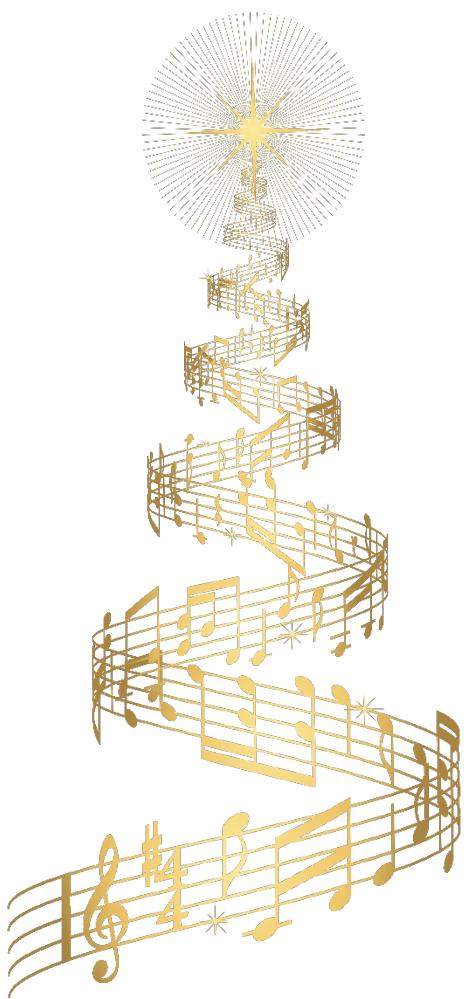
### In-Betweeners Coming Up!

*Our Annual Carol Sing is planned for Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Dinner this time will be catered pasta and salad from Pastaggio's, \$15/person. After dinner, there will be special Christmas music offered by Vicki, Leah, and Howard, as well as singing carols together. Please let us know that you'll be coming by Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, by contacting the Ames at 575.636.0210, or just catch us at Fellowship Time!*



### Mesilla Valley Concert Band

*Today, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM, the Mesilla Valley Concert Band*



*will present their annual Sounds of the Season concert at NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall. Admission is free. The concert features Russian Christmas Music, Christmas Festival, Adventum,*

*and a special guest conducting Sleigh Ride.*

## **Christmas Cantata**

On Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

*Congratulations*  
and Warmest Blessings to two families  
who are past members of our  
College and Young Adults Ministry

*On August 16<sup>th</sup>, Jean Bernard and Michelle Nganou  
and siblings Ange, Leslie Hope, and Maeve  
welcomed another baby girl, Eden.*

*Jean Bernard is a full professor and chair of the math department at the University of Houston, and Michelle is a psychiatric nurse. Their daughter, Ange, is in medical school.*

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Ebenezer and Dorcas Aidoo and siblings Ayeyi, Adzepa, and Anyimnyam welcomed a baby boy, Akyedze.

Ebenezer is now a professor at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, and Dorcas completed a nursing degree before they moved from Iowa.

Both these families regularly remind us that wherever they go, First Presbyterian Church and Las Cruces will always be their home.



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 Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, December 8th

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News  
7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal in the Choir Room  
5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library

Tuesday, December 9th

11:30 AM Mary Martha Bible Study Group Luncheon (see announcement)  
7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, December 10th

8:00 AM Serve with us at the Soup Kitchen  
12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin  
4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)  
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 11th

1:30 PM *Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor, reflection on Scripture for Sunday*  
6:00 PM *Camino Middle School Choir Concert in the Sanctuary*  
6:30 PM *Jenny Curry Women's Bible Study in Jones Hall Library*

Friday, December 12th

*Office Closed*

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

Saturday, December 13th

Sunday, December 14th

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*  
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