



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

3rd Sunday of Advent – Love

December 14, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Once He Came in Blessing" (Chorale of 1531)

Michael Burkhardt (b.1957)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified" (tune by Charles Villiers Stanford, 1852-1924)

Edward Broughton (1934-2015)

**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

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His Mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Luke 1:46-55 (NSRV)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Dalager

Family

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

Reader 2: For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in his love. He exults

over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

CHORAL INTROIT

"Heaven Is Singing for Joy"

ALEGRIA

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Nick

Koontz

Leader: There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations.

People: When Christ returns in power and glory people will faint with fear.

Leader: But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

People: Our redemption is drawing near!

Leader: Heaven and earth may pass away,

People: But the Word of God will stand unshaken.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (unison)

God our Helper, we thank you for keeping our lives always in your care and protection and pray for any and all who are in harm's way.

For those walking in the midst of danger...

For those who are treading a slippery path...

For those exhausted and seeking relief...

For those who face a mountain of worry or debt or any other obstacles...

Be Guardian and Guide, we pray, setting our feet on your paths of righteousness and peace.

We pray for those who are struggling

With a new challenge or call...

With a major transition in life or livelihood...

With their faith and understanding...

With grief, ancient or new...

Keep in your tender care and mercy, O God,

those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit...

those weighed down by depression or pain...

those recuperating from surgery or accident...

Protect not only us and those we love, but also the whole wide world you so love. In places of war, bring peace. In places beset by natural disaster, bring calm and restoration. Where there is unrest and injustice, make justice our aim. Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and you, lifted up before us. We pray this as Christ 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 TO CONFESSION #91 "Come, Come Emmanuel" COME, COME EMMANUEL
Chancel Choir sing through one time
Congregation join the second time

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame to praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven.
People: The Lord has taken away the judgments against us. Let us rejoice!
Leader: Fear not, people of the Lord.
People: God gives us strength and victory.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" IN DULCI
JUBILO

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

CALL TO PRAYER #137 "He Came Down" HE CAME DOWN

PASTORAL PRAYER

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE THROUGH MUSIC

Gustavo Morales, Piano

A Tribute of Carols

Arr. Heather Sorenson

Were You There on That Christmas Night?
Diana Gutierrez and Leah Mathe
Bells of Praise

Natalie Sleeth

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
Caleb Taylor, Snare Drum
Leath Mathe, Finger Cymbals

Harry Simeone

“Holy Night, Silent Night”

Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
Caleb Taylor, Percussion
Bells of Praise

Arr. Joel Raney

“Fum, Fum, Fum!”

Arr. Greg Gilpin

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

“Peace, Peace”

Rick and Sylvia Powell

Congregation please join on Silent Night

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace*

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist-Rev. Nick Koontz Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O’Neal
Sound System-Jonathan West Video-Will Schroeder*

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Bob Distlehorst-E

Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-W

Donna Phillips-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Donna Marconi-E

Rev. Nick Koontz-W

Lon Anderson-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		

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 Members of Session.

Please join us in wishing Rev. Nick Koontz a Farewell and Best Wishes on his new venture!

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o Our youth, here and across Las Cruces. May God guide minds and hearts!*
- o Everyone traveling this holiday season.*
- o Doug Muscanell, Brian Stewart, James Leyba, Scott Sherman, Marty Pope, Randy Granger and Johnny Montenegro.*
- o Gilbert (Alex) Lucero as he awaits surgery.*

- o Tre, the daughter-in-law of Nancy Cowan, as she awaits surgery.

Continued Prayer List

Jacque Parks; Jim Pace; 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.



12/17 Carol Green 12/18 Faith Chilaka

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:

- 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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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

Salt and Light will resume in January 2026.

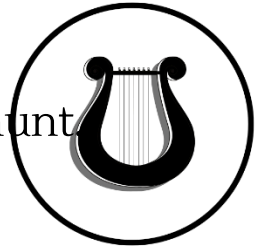
We wish you all a very Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year!

Enjoy your Winter Break!



Advent Sundays Scavenger Hunt

Every Sunday during Advent we will be having a scavenger hunt.
This Sunday's scavenger hunt:
Can you find the Worship Chrismon on the tree?



Christmas Eve Service

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



December



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

Monday, December 15th

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

Tuesday, December 16th

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting in Jones Hall

Wednesday, December 17th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18th

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

5:30 PM Deacon's Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor

7:00 PM Centennial High School Choir Winter Concert in the Sanctuary

Friday, December 19th

Office Closed

Saturday, December 20th

Sunday, December 21st

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 (see announcement)

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