



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

4th Sunday of Advent – Joy

December 21, 2025 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"The Holly and the Ivy" (traditional English carol)
(1934-2015)

Ross Anderson

"The Birthday of a King"
(1863-1924)

William Harold Neidlinger

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
(1891-1971)

Craig Sellar Lang

**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

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. The Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are I dread will be deserted. Isaiah 7:10-16 (NSRV)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Brewer

Family

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

Reader 2: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

CHORAL INTROIT

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lon

Anderson

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

People: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.

People: Holy is God's name!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORDS PRAYER (unison)

As we remember the words of Mary, mother of Jesus, we pray that You would remember your mercy, O Lord, and help us, according to the promise of your steadfast love. Let all generations see your blessing, for your name is holy and your mercy is great. Show us the strength of your hand, and lift the burdens of the poor. Work wonders for the humble, and scatter the plans of the proud. Look with favor on the lowly, and cast down tyrants from their thrones. Fill the hungry with good things, and empty the hands of the greedy. Then we will sing out with joy and glorify you forever. 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)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard your Good News, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.

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.

Leader: God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE
GLORIA

#113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#115 "Away in a Manger"

MUELLER

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Still, Still, Still"

Arr. Norman Luboff

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Matthew 1:18-25

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (NSRV)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: (NSRV)

Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSV)

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The King and the Maiden” Rev. Nick Koontz

CLOSING HYMN #134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

“Angels We Have Heard On High” GLORIA
Gloria in Excelsis! Deo! Gloria in Excelsis!

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Lon Anderson Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Donna Marconi-E Donna Phillips-W Linda Pearson-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Amon Taylor-E Lon Anderson-W Rev. Nick Koontz-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 Buildings & Grounds Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- o Those to whom the Christmas season is difficult. Those who have lost loved ones, who are not close to their families, many of our veterans and active-duty members, our students and international families.*
- 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 Wolfflick; 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.

12/21 Donalee Bartholomew

12/22 Sandy Abernathy



12/26 Dina Schroeder

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



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

Advent Sundays Scavenger Hunt

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

This Sunday's scavenger hunt:

Can you find the Crown of Thorns 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.

Happy  Holidays!

December 

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
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, December 22nd

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

Tuesday, December 23rd

Wednesday, December 24th

12:00 PM *Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin*

6:00 PM *Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary*

Thursday, December 25th

Office Closed in Observance of Christmas

Friday, December 26th

Office Closed

Saturday, December 27th

Sunday, December 28th

9:00 AM *Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, "Parables in the Bible," led by Rev. Larry Hicks*

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9:00 AM *Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall*

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