



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 11, 2026 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

"The Heavens Rejoice!"

Todd Kendall

(1934-2015)

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (chorale from 1690)

Malcolm David Archer (b. 1952)

"To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord" (chorale from 1524)

James Mansfield (1927-2018)

\*\*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

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10: 34-38)

## CHORAL INTROIT

"Take Me to the Water"

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

## **ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary

Maley

Psalm 29:1-3, 11

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

**People: The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#150 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of your plan for our salvation. For hundreds of years, you gave us prophets to tell us what our Messiah would be like so that we could recognize Him. You sent Jesus as Immanuel, God with us, someone that we could see and hear and relate to. While it would have been enough for our Savior to be holy and perfect, You also made Him humble and gentle to minister to the bruised reeds and smoldering wicks among Your children. You called for Him faithful disciples to record for us His teachings and examples. With those disciples then and now, hear us as we pray: **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

"O Lord, Have Mercy"  
Chancel Choir

ORE PORIAJU VEREKO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, in the wilderness, John the Baptist cried, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" and "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." We are supposed to turn away from those things that go against Your will and make real changes in our lives. We confess today that we have not done this. Sometimes we turn away for a day or two, only to be back to the same patterns by the next week. Sometimes we pick and choose the parts of Your Kingdom that we want to follow and ignore the others, making excuses and justifying ourselves by comparisons with others. Sometimes we want to produce good fruit and do not know how. Help us to recognize and admit when we have fallen short. As you led people to the Jordan River, lead us once again to Your Word to hear Your plan and promises for us. Support us as we leave behind those things that hinder us from following you.

**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.

**People:** **Through Jesus, we have been forgiven and restored. Thanks be to God!**

**Leader:** What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

**People:** **To be washed with Christ's blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ's blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross. To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives.** (Heidelberg Catechism #70)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE  
EYES

#452 "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

CALL TO PRAYER

#482 "Baptized in Water"

BUNESSAN

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Ho, All Who Thirst"

JACOB'S WELL

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 42:1-9    Matthew 3:13-17

Dr. Catherine Brewer

Isaiah 42:1-9 (NSRV)

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope." This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I

will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

Matthew 3:13-17 (NSRV)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Baptism of Jesus: How God Starts a Ministry" Dr. Catherine Brewer

CLOSING HYMN #490 "Wash, O God, Yours Sons and Daughters" BEACH SPRING

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" GREEN TYLER

\*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Mary Maley      Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi*  
*Sound System-Jonathan West      Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:*  
*Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-E      Donna Marconi-W      Bob Distlehorst-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:*  
*Mary Maley-E                      Dr. Catherine Brewer-W                      Debra Smith-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
Pang Baker	Bookkeeper		

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### **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		

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### **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 Veronica Giron and Saul Montenegro.

### ***Please Remember in Your Prayers***

- o Barbara Trudell's friend in Cameroon, Nicolinem, who has malaria.*
- o Angela and Robert White.*
- o The family of Buddy Williams in his passing.*
- o Sherry Lindsey, Brian Stewart, James Leyba, and Johnny Montenegro.*

### ***Continued Prayer List***

*Jacque Parks; Jim Pace; Ed Mathis; Barb Wolflick; Amber Nolan; Sherry Lindsey; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.*



*1/13 Rebecca Smith*

*1/14 Naomi Loya*

*1/15 Florence Hamilton*

*1/16 Josh Borchert*

*1/17 David Cox*

*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](https://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app “Church Center”.



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Livestream and/or  
Replay Worship Services

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***



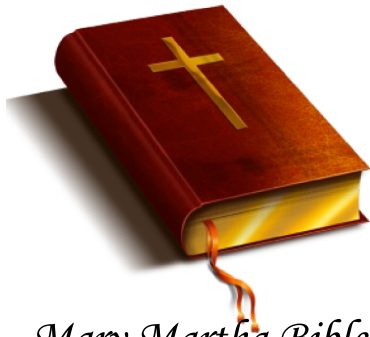
### ***Salt & Light***

*This Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> our theme will be “We Three Kings”.  
Dinner will be chicken quesadillas, rice, beans, chips & salsa, and churros for dessert.  
See you all there!*

### ***In-Betweeners Coming Up!***

*On Friday, January 23rd, we’ll be getting together in  
Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM. Dinner will be a planned potluck this time.  
After dinner, David Thomas, local historian and author, is returning to speak!  
Please let the Ames know that you’ll be coming, as well as what category of dish  
you’d like to bring, by Monday, January 19th. You’re also welcome to contact us  
with any questions at 575-636-0210, [james@myctl.net](mailto:james@myctl.net),*

*or just catch us after Worship.*



### *Mary Martha Bible Study*

*Mary Martha Bible Study will meet in the Jones Hall Library at 9:45 AM on Tuesday, January 13th. After a brief review of earlier chapters, exploration of the Book of Joshua will continue with Chapters 11 & 12, led by Gracia Class. All church women and their guests are welcome to come!*

## January

#### *Sunday, January 11th*

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, "The Sermon on the Mount," 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, January 12th*

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News*
- 5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library*
- 7:00 PM Centennial High School Choir Concert in the Sanctuary*

#### *Tuesday, January 13th*

- 9:45 AM Mary Martha Bible Study in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)*
- 7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall*

#### *Wednesday, January 14th*

- 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)*



Thursday, January 15th

1:30 PM     *Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor*  
5:30 PM     *Deacon's Meeting in Jones Hall Parlor*

Friday, January 16th

*Office Closed*

Saturday, January 17th

Sunday, January 18th

9:00 AM     *Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, "The Sermon on the Mount"*  
              *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*

