



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

"Eye Hath Not Seen" (from ***The Holy City*** by Alfred R. Gaul, 1837-1913)

setting by Chester Nordman (1895-1973)

"Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy" (hymn by P. P. Bliss, 1871) Lani Smith (1934-2015)

"In the Beauty of Holiness"

Walter O'Donnell (1967)

\*\*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

Dance for joy before Grandfather! Harmony and well-being rest on those who have deep respect for Grandfather and whose hearts dance at his instructions. Their descendants will walk strong on the land. They will be a generation that stands tall under the blessing of the Maker of Life. Their families will have great abundance and share in many good things. Their right ways will stand true for more than seven generations. Those with good hearts will shine like the morning light with mercy, kindness, and justice. It will go well for the ones who freely lend to those in need and are honest and just in all they do. They will stand firm and never be moved. Their good-hearted ways will be long remembered. They will not fear bad news, for their hearts firmly trust Grandfather. Their hearts beat without fear as they look into the eyes of their enemies. They freely give to those in need. Their good-hearted ways will always be remembered. Their buffalo horn will be lifted high and honored. The bad-hearted will see this and grind their teeth together in anger and frustration as their strength melts away. All their false hopes and dreams will fade like the setting sun. (Psalm 112:1-10) (First Nations Version – note that in honor of Hebrew name for God, this version refers to YHWH as Grandfather.)

## CHORAL INTROIT

"Here in This Place"

GATHER US IN

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Clement

Leader: We delight to draw near to you, gracious God. We rejoice in the many gifts you have given us.

Tom

**People:** **We lift up our hearts and voices in praise. We humble ourselves before a loving God.**

Leader: We gather to remember God's commandments. We seek the wisdom God imparts.

**People:** **The wisdom of God is not like any other. It draws us away from the world's agenda.**

Leader: God sends us into the world with new priorities. We are grounded in the Spirit that we might be discerning.

**People:** **We seek to be filled with the mind of Christ. We are citizens of God's realm due solely to God's grace.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

#263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

CORONATION

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

May our voices rise like trumpets to greet you, holy God. May our ears be attuned to know your ways. May our hearts be steady, focused on you. Praise be to you, O God, whom we worship with awe and delight. Guide us, we pray, in this time of worship. Touch us at the points of our deepest need. Stir us amidst our entrenched complacency. Make us strong to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the things of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free. Then your light will break forth like the dawn and we will experience your healing care. **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

#422 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

CREATE IN ME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, you call out to us, saying, "Here I am," but we do not listen. You pour out on us spiritual gifts, but we do not discern them. You call us to build a more just society, but we cling to our advantages. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. Help us so to know and understand Jesus Christ that we might reflect the God of glory in our daily living. Create in us a generosity that reflects your own. Pour out your spirit on this congregation that we might understand what you want us to do. Amen.

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY**

Leader: Friends, hear the good news of salvation. God wants to be in close relationship with us and thus freely bestows God's grace on us through Jesus Christ.

**People:** **In Christ we receive redemption and forgiveness for our sins.**

Leader: What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, God has prepared for all who are open to the Spirit's revelations.

**People:** Let us be open to guidance from the Holy Spirit. Let us pursue the work to which God calls us: feeding the hungry, helping the oppressed, and building foundations of faith for future generations.

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#314 "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Congregation to sing refrain

Choral Scholars to sing verses

## GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

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

## CALL TO PRAYER

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

ST. AGNUS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## ANTHEM

"This Little Light of Mine"

Arr. Robert Gibson

## PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Corinthians 2:1-16   Matthew 5:13-20

Dr. Janet Loman

### 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (NRSV)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him" —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Matthew 5:13-20(NRSV)

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

SERMON

"In or Out of this World"

Dr. Cindy Clement

CLOSING HYMN

#724 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ANGEL'S STORY

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION "This Little Light of Mine"

Arr. Robert Gibson

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Dr. Howard A. Smolleck

---

*Liturgist-Tom Clement      Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi  
Sound System-Jonathan West      Video-Will Schroeder*

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

*Greeting after the Worship Service:*  
*Tom Clement-E      Dr. Cindy Clement-W      Debra Smith-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
Pang Baker	Bookkeeper		

---

**Members of Session**

Steve Loman	Moderator of the Session	Janet Mara	Moderator, Missions
Alice Distlehorst	Music & Worship	Ada Castle	Buildings & Grounds
Roni Hardin	Moderator, Music & Worship	Jeanette Smith	Administration & Finance
Diana Howard	Moderator, Congregational Life	Yolanda Koontz	Christian Education
Scott Burns	Congregational Life	Erin Taylor	Moderator, Christian Education
Nancy Cowan	Missions	Jimmy O'Neal	Administration & Finance
Linda Ward	Moderator, Buildings & Grounds	Jim Parks	President, Foundation
*Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session	*Mary Maley	
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 Veronica Giron.

***Please Remember in Your Prayers***

- o The family of Tom Turner, Donna Curtis's brother-in-law, who recently passed.*
- o Chase Harting, Donna Curtis's nephew, who was placed on Hospice care.*
- o Dale Cook*
- o Roger, friend of the Ames, whose beloved wife passed on January 31<sup>st</sup>.*
- o Those who have dementia and their caretakers.*

## *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.*

*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”.



[Website](#)

[Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)

[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, February 4<sup>th</sup> our theme will be “Valentine’s”  
Dinner will be ravioli, garden salad with ranch dressing, dinner rolls,  
and pineapple cake for dessert.  
We hope you will all join us!*



2/8 Frances McCollum

2/9 Veronica Giron



2/12 Michael Owusu Sekyere

## **Shrove Tuesday**

Come and join us for Shrove Tuesday! Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM.

We will be serving pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, butter and syrup in Watkins Fellowship Hall. To-go boxes will also be available. All are welcome!

### **Shrove Tuesday history:**

Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'shriven' meaning to go to confession. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, so people went to confession on the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

The other name for this day, Pancake Tuesday, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses in those days were eggs and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes.

## **FEBRUARY**

### Sunday, February 8th

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, February 9th

5:30 PM     *Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library*  
7:30 AM     *Work-based Learning in Watkins Hall*  
7:00 PM     *Bells Rehearsal*

### Tuesday, February 10th

7:30 AM     *Work-based Learning in Watkins Hall*  
9:45 AM     *Mary Martha Women's Bible Study in Jones Hall Library*  
12:00 PM     *Deadline for submissions for The Good News*  
7:00 PM     *Committee Night in Jones Hall*

### Wednesday, February 11th

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, February 12th

1:30 PM     *Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor*



6:30 PM *Jennie Curry Women's Bible Study in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)*

**Friday, February 13th**

8:00 AM *LCPS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Festival in the Sanctuary*  
*Office Closed*

**Saturday, February 14th**

**Sunday, February 15th**

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*