



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
2nd Sunday of Lent – Communion Sunday
March 1, 2026 - 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"You Must Be Born Again" (hymn by George C. Stebbins, 1846-1945)

Setting by Charity Boyles (2003)

"A ruler once came to Jesus by night to ask Him the way of salvation and light;
The Master made answer in words true and plain: 'You must be born again'". "A Lenten

Prelude"

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)

arranged by George M. Blake 1912-1986

"Communion"

Eugene Gigout (1844-1925)

**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

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. (John 15:1-4 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT

"God So Loved the World"

John Stainer

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Scott Burns

Leader: I lift my eyes to the hills -- from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

People: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

People: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore. (Psalm 121 NRSV)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#361 "O Christ, the Great Foundation"

AURELIA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

God of wilderness and nighttime, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. We dedicate our lives to you with deep gratitude as you call on our lives and guide us with your light, which is a lamp to our feet. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

#215 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

People: We are forgiven! We are free from condemnation, free to question and seek, knowing God's love surrounds us in both the dark of night and light of day. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" TRENTHAM
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

ANTHEM "Come Share The Lord" Arr. Roland Tabell

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Numbers 21:4-9 John 3:1-21 Scott Burns

Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:1-21 (NRSV)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born

of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Walking in Faith and Trust"

Dr. Janet Loman

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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 available at each of the doors for those wishing to continue with the kits.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

#839 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

ASSURANCE

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #227 "Jesus, Remember Me" REMEMBER ME

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Dr. Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Scott Burns Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Curtis Benaway Video-Rusty Smith

Greeting before the Worship Service:

Vicki Kuyper-E Donna Marconi-W Kathleen Gardner-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Amon Taylor-E Dr. Janet Loman-W Jimmy O'Neal-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 the
Christian Education Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *Bill and Vicki Kuyper's friend Darla who is waiting for a new liver.*
- *Valeria Carter's sister Mary and her husband, along with Valeria's friend Richard Miller, who all have the flu.*
- *Robert and Angela White.*
- *Sherry Lindsey, Brian Stewart, James Leyba, and Johnny Montenegro.*

Continued Prayer List

Charlotte Brockway; Jacque Parks; Helen Moser; 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.



3/2 Johnnie Aldrich

3/3 Orlando Sanchez

3/3 Millie Conrad

3/3 Robert Distlehorst

3/4 Elizabeth Loman

3/5 Ada Castle

3/7 Dorris Hamilton

*Happy
Birthday*

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 or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app "Church Center".



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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





THE SEASON OF LENT

"Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time of growth in faith - through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient Christian practice, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at Easter. In many churches, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for Baptism or confirmation, and for the whole community of faith to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. Reconciliation is a key theme in the season of Lent - reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Lent is a period of 40 days - like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jona's call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the 40 days, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday, at the start of the Great Vigil of Easter.



In the Life of the Church



Salt & Light

This Wednesday, March 4th our theme will be "Take Up the Cross and Follow Me" Dinner will be hot ham and cheese sandwiches, sweet potato fries, veggie sticks w/ranch, and brownies for dessert. We hope you join us!



Church bus update

The engine repairs have been completed and the bus is running fine and is back at the church. There is an issue with the wheelchair lift, however, and cannot be safely operated. Parts are on order. Rusty, our multi-skilled handyman is making the repair. Once the lift is operating it will be back in service.



Mesilla Valley Concert Band

The Mesilla Valley Concert Band will perform on Sunday, March 8, at 3PM in NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall. Vicki Kuyper and Alice Distlehorst play in this band. Admission is free.

Mary Martha Bible Study

Mary Martha Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, March 10, in the library. We will meet for coffee and fellowship at 9:30 and begin the Bible Study at 10:00. This month we are studying 18-22 but especially 20 and 22. We hope to see you there.

Organ recital March 8th

It is my privilege to invite our congregation and guests to an organ recital which will take place in our sanctuary on Sunday, March 8 beginning at 3:00 PM, with a reception in Jones Hall afterward. The program, expected to last about an hour, will consist of organ solos by members of the Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists from Las Cruces, El Paso, and the Deming - Silver City area.

There is no admission charge and all are invited. The program is expected to include a variety of music in varied styles from different historical periods and traditions, and will provide a good opportunity to hear and meet some of the principal organists who are active in our local area.

*- Howard A. Smolleck, Organist, First Presbyterian Church
Past Dean, Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*



Sunday, March 1st

- 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, March 2nd

- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 3rd

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for *The Good News*

Wednesday, March 4th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the *Sunday Bulletin*
4:00 PM *Salt & Light* (see announcement)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study in Jones Hall Library

Friday, March 6th

Office Closed

Saturday, March 7th

Sunday, March 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
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