



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**3rd Sunday of Lent – Communion Sunday**  
**March 8, 2026 - 10:30 AM**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

PRELUDE

"God Will Take Care of You" (hymn by W. Stillman Martin, 1905)

Lucy Ann Warriner (2003)

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" (hymn by William H. Doane, 1869)

Norman Johnson (1877-1952)

"An Evening Prayer" (hymn by Charles Gabriel, 1911) Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)

"If I have wounded any soul today, if I have caused one foot to go astray, if I have walked in my own willful way, Dear Lord, forgive!"

\*\*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

Today, if only you would hear his voice, "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" (Psalm 95:8-11)

CHORAL INTROIT

"Come, Worship God"

Q QUANTA QUALIA

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Akins

(Psalm 95:1-4)

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**People: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

Leader: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

**People: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #81 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" AUSTRIAN HYMN

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

Heaven Father, throughout the Bible, we have many examples of your provenance. As the Israelites traveled in the wilderness, you provided them with manna, quail, and water. During the exile in Babylon, you provided an earthly ruler that defeated the Babylonians and decreed that the Israelites could return to Jerusalem and rebuild. Most importantly, when the time was right, you provided your Son to take care of our greatest need: a restored relationship with you. You sent Jesus to Jew, Samaritan, and Gentile so that we could know that your plan of salvation is for all people. You gave us His example to follow. Hear us now as we pray the prayer that He taught us: **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 #443 "There Is a Redeemer" GREEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Just as the Israelites complained against Moses in the wilderness, we too have doubted Your providence and questioned Your plans. We have put our trust in other things. We have resisted Your Word and pushed back when You reached out. We have let resentments and disagreements build between ourselves and others, rather than being conduits of Your love to others. Through Your word, help us to recognize and remove these obstacles of sin, fear, anger, selfishness, and pride between You and Your people, and between us and others. Give us courage to lean on You and hope in the living water that only you can provide.

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 reconciled to God and given a path to reconcile with each other.**

Leader: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

People: **We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future, we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.** (from the Heidelberg Catechism #28)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #182 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" KINGSFOLD

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER "Fill My Cup" FILL MY CUP  
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Arr. Lloyd Larson

### **PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42 Dr. Catherine Brewer

Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4:5-42 (NIV)

So [Jesus] came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus, the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So, when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

People: This is the word of the Lord.

**Leader: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Well, This is Awkward (For the Disciples): Jesus’ Masterclass in Reconciliation in Samaria”  
Dr. Catherine Brewer

CLOSING HYMN

#65 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

**GO IN GOD’S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#227 “Jesus, Remember Me”

REMEMBER ME

*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Dr. Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Bill Akins      Deacon Captain-Divine Mboh  
Sound System-Jonathan West      Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:*

*Bob Distlehorst-E      Tom Clement-W      Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:*

*Erin Taylor-E      Dr. Catherine Brewer-W      Bill Akins-S*

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Rev. Pyong San Yu  
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck  
Veronica Giron  
Beth Borchert-Thomas  
Pang Baker

Korean Congregation  
Organist  
Salt & Light Coord.  
Dir. of Music & Bells  
Bookkeeper

Dr. Janet Loman      Comm. Pastor, College Ministry  
Ada Castle      Commissioned Pastor, Visitation  
Dr. Paul Deason      Commissioned Pastor  
Veronica Giron      Office Manager

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## 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

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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 & Saul Montenegro.

### *Please Remember in Your Prayers*

- *Cindy Clements' mother who is in the hospital due to a fall.*
- *The Burton Family, who lost their son Owen in a ranching accident.*
- *The family of Gavin O'Connell, a student at Mesilla Valley Christian School who died suddenly this past week,*
- *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.*



*3/9 Jimmy O'Neal    3/11 Janice Sherman    3/11 Jessica Smith*



3/12 Carl Connor 3/13 Natassja Galaz 3/14 Joanne Kersting

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



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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, March 11th our theme will be "Who Me? Forgive?!"  
Dinner will be chicken tostadas, rice, chips and salsa, and arroz con leche for dessert.  
See you all there!*

## Spring Clean-Up Day

It's that time of year again. It's time for some spring cleaning. Spring Clean-up Day will be on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM. If you would like to help us clean up our grounds, please contact anyone from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, or call the office at 575-526-5559.



## Mary Martha Bible Study

*Mary Martha Bible Study will meet this 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 Joshua 18-22 but especially 20 and 22. We hope to see you there.*

## Organ recital Today

*It is my privilege to invite our congregation and guests to an organ recital which will take place in our sanctuary this afternoon 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 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)  
3:00 PM American Guild of Organists Recital in the Sanctuary (see announcement)

Monday, March 9th

- 1:30 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library  
7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 10th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News  
7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, March 11th

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

Thursday, March 12th

- 8:00 AM Adult Learning in Watkins Fellowship Hall  
1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor  
6:00 PM Camino Real Middle School Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 13th

- Office Closed  
8:00 AM Adult Learning in Watkins Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 14th

Sunday, March 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

