



# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Easter Resurrection Sunday

April 5, 2026 - 10:30 AM

*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

## PRELUDE

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain of Triumphant Gladness” (tune by Arthur Seymour Sullivan) Franklin D. Ashdown (1942-2023)

“Thine Is the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son” (tune by Handel, written in 1748) Robert C. Lau (b. 1943)

“Rowland” William Byrd

Jacob Dalager, Trumpet  
Paul McLaughlin, Trumpet  
Angela Winter, Horn  
Jesus Portillo, Trombone

\*\*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

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! For now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
(Job 19:25-27; 1 Corinthians 15:20)

## INTROIT

“Easter Joy”  
Bells of Praise  
Brass Quartet

Michael Helman

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cindy

Clement

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

Leader: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

People: **Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Leader: With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

#232 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER

HYMN

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

Most gracious and loving God, you who overcame death with the resurrection of Christ Jesus, we lift our hearts to you in praise this blessed morning. We celebrate the Good News revealed by the stone that was rolled away and the tomb that was empty. We thank you, Lord, for the miracle of this day, for it gives sure and eternal hope to your people. May your resurrection give us grace that leads to faith. May the promise of resurrection dwell deeply in our hearts, giving us the willingness to share such a wonderful thing with others. We ask this through your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord, who conquered the grave, and who, by your grace, rules over both the living and the dead. **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

#274 "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Sheperd"

PICARDY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of power and might, we stand before the empty tomb with awe, pondering a love that is stronger even than death. We come before you, asking forgiveness for

those times when we have failed to believe and follow you. Your love is constant and sure, yet we confess that we have failed in our confidence and trust in you, O Loving God. On this day of new beginnings and hope, we pray that, by your Spirit, we can make a fresh start. We pray in the name of Jesus, who is raised from the dead, that we may be cleansed and released from the power of sin, O Holy God. Open our eyes and lives to the truth of the resurrection, that we will live in true freedom and blessed abundance eternally, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel, that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. In Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

**People:** **Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.**

**Leader:** Now cleansed from sin, how would God have us live?

**People:** **The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#238 "Thine is the Glory"

Judas Maccabeus

Congregation sings verses 1 and 3

Handbell Ensemble

Jacob Dalager and Paul McLaughlin, Trumpets

### GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

### CALL TO PRAYER

#240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

ALLELUIA NO. 1

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### ANTHEM

"Easter Festival"

Michael Bryson

**PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE**

## Isaiah 65:17-25 (NRSV)

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

## John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me,

because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

People: This is the word of the Lord.

Leader: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Love Stronger than the Grave"

Dr. Janet Loman

CLOSING HYMN

#246 "Christ is Alive"

TRURO

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#249 "Because You Live, O Christ"

VRUECHTEN

*Because you live, O Christ,  
the garden of the world has come to flower;  
the darkness of the tomb is flooded with your resurrection power.  
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen!*

*Because you live, O Christ,  
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;  
our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying.  
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen!*

*Because you live, O Christ  
the rainbow of your peace will span creation;  
The colors of your love will draw all human-kind to adoration.  
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter day,*

*for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen!*

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Improvisation

Dr. Howard Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Cindy Clement      Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi*  
*Sound System-Curtis Benaway      Video-Rusty Smith*

*Greeting before the Worship Service:*

*Bob Distlehorst-E      Tom Clement-W      Donna Phillips-S*

*Greeting after the Worship Service:*

*Cindy Clement-E      Dr. Janet Loman-W      Erin Taylor-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  
Alice Distlehorst      Music & Worship  
Roni Hardin      Moderator, Music & Worship  
Diana Howard      Moderator, Congregational Life  
Scott Burns      Congregational Life  
Nancy Cowan      Missions  
Linda Ward      Moderator, Buildings & Grounds  
\*Dinah Jentgen  
Administration      Clerk of Session

Janet Mara      Moderator, Missions  
Ada Castle      Buildings & Grounds  
Jeanette Smith      Administration & Finance  
Yolanda Koontz      Christian Education  
Erin Taylor      Moderator, Christian Education  
Jimmy O'Neal      Administration & Finance  
Jim Parks      President, Foundation  
\*Mary Maley

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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 the Mary Martha Bible Study, followed by our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard.

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

*Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard presented by our Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee following our After-Worship Fellowship.*

### *Please Remember in Your Prayers*

- *Cindy Clement's mother, as she prepares to move into a nursing facility.*
- *Kevin Taylor, as he undergoes more procedures.*
- *Jamie's mother who has been entered into rehab.*
- *Our wonderful church.*
- *Those who long for a day without pain.*
- *Tracy Howard, son of Diana Howard, who's cancer has spread, and immunotherapy isn't working.*
- *The family of Darla Jenkins, who passed away on Wednesday.*
- *Family of Sherry Lindsey who passed away.*
- *Joyce, that her radiation treatments work.*
- *Prayers for Brian Stewart, James Leyba, and Johnny Montenegro.*

### *Continued Prayer List*

*Sharon Pierce; Charlotte Brockway; Jacque Parks; Ed Mathis; Barb Wolflick; Amber Nolan; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton; Valeria Carter, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.*

4/8 John Pleasant



**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 Spring Picnic*

*Well, our Spring semester is coming to an end, and although it was a fun-filled time,  
we will be taking a little break before we come back  
for more fun at Vacation Bible School.*

*We will celebrate our final week with our Annual Spring Picnic.*

*Please join us on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM  
for our BBQ picnic. You can RSVP with Veronica via email or by calling the office  
at 575.526.5559. Please RSVP by Tuesday, Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.*

*We hope to see you all there!*

### *Jennie Curry Bible Study*

Jennie Curry will meet on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM, in Jones Hall  
Library. We hope to see you all there.



# Friendly Reminder

If you need Pastoral Care, prayer requests, or someone to pray with you, we do have several people available to assist you with your needs.

Ada Castle – Commissioned Pastor: Home Visits, Pastoral Care, Communion, etc.

Dr. Paul Deason – Commissioned Pastor: Pastoral Care, Telephone visits, etc.

Dr. Janet Loman – Commissioned Pastor: Home Visits, Pastoral Care, Communion, etc.

If you need to contact one of our Commissioned Pastors, please feel free to call the office at 575.526.5559, and/or their business cards are available at the front desk of the church office.

## April

### Sunday, April 5th

9:00 AM No Adult Sunday School, Adult Sunday School will resume Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

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 in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

12:00 PM Annual Easter Egg Hunt

### Monday, April 6th

Office Closed

### Tuesday, April 7th

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

### Wednesday, April 8th

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

4:00 PM Salt & Light Spring Picnic (see announcement)

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 9th



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

*Friday, April 10th*

*Office Closed*

*Saturday, April 11th*

*Sunday, April 12th*

*9:00 AM     Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library with Catie Brewer.*

*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*