



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026 - 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Won” (Incorporating “Hornpipe” by Handel)

Robert C. Lau (b. 1943)

"Lamb of God" (hymn by Twila Paris, 1985)

Peggy Ann Bettcher (b. 1961)

“Thou Art the King”

Chester Nordman (1895-1973)

**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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20:19-23)

INTROIT

“Let Us Rejoice”

John Yarrington

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Higginbotham

Joseph

Leader: Let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found;

People: Surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you righteous.

People: Sing, all you who are upright in heart!

*HYMN OF PRAISE
148TH

#363 "Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

DARWALL'S

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

Oh God, our God, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! You are our rock and our salvation; You are our fortress, and we will never be shaken. As small and inadequate as we are, we cannot truly grasp what it means to be Your people, Your children, the sheep of Your pasture. Help us, Father, to remember this about You: You are our refuge, our God in whom we trust. Help us, Lord Jesus, to hold onto your perfect, loving sacrifice for us. Help us, Holy Spirit, to grow in grace, so that we may love and serve the Lord. **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

"You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy"
Chancel Choir

Wayfaring Stranger

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace, You know us better than we know ourselves. You know very well when we sin and where we fail. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We look to satisfying our own needs and wants rather than looking out for the needs of others. We extend hospitality only to those whom we already know and care for. We fail to stand up for what is right, even when injustice is so clear. In these and many other ways, we do not live as your faithful disciples. In Your love, forgive us and make us new. Empower us to live faithfully and to follow only You.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Now there is rejoicing in heaven; for you were lost, and now you are found! You were dead, and you are now alive in Christ Jesus our Lord. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God!

Leader: What does this great love of God mean to us?

People: This is the kind of love that renews us. When we love as He loved us, we become new people, heirs of the new covenant and singers of the new song. (*St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippos, 354-430 AD*)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” DUNLAP’S CREEK

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Brooke Montgomery

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

CALL TO PRAYER “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” ST. AGNUS
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM “Sing a New Song Unto the Lord” SING A NEW SONG

PROCLAIM GOD’S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 16: 5-11 1 Peter 1: 3-9 Dr. Barbara Trudell

Psalm 16: 5-11 (NRSV)

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NRSV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him;

and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

People: This is the word of the Lord.

Leader: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Love Without Limits" Dr. Barbara Trudell

CLOSING HYMN #268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" DIADEMATA

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Bless the Lord" BLESS THE LORD

*POSTLUDE Hymn Improvisation Dr. Howard Smolleck

Liturgist-Joseph Higginbotham Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Jonathan West Video-Will Schroeder

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

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Brooke Montgomery-E Dr. Barbara Trudell-W Joseph Higginbotham-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

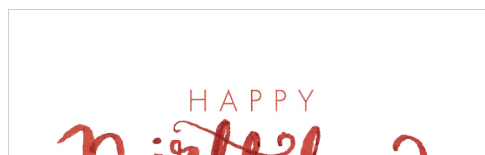
Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a great time to visit with old and new friends alike. Fellowship this morning is being hosted by the Deacons.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *The Carnero family as they mourn the loss of their 13-year-old son Chris.*
- *Prayers for kindness to all.*
- *That the ones we loved will return to life as did Jesus.*
- *Mae Johnson.*
- *Our church members and future.*
- *Tracy Howard, son of Diana Howard, who's cancer has spread, and immunotherapy isn't working.*
- *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.



4/12 *Divine Mboh*

4/14 *Lester Kuiper*

4/16 *Cole Montgomery*

4/16 *Virginia Haynes*

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



CCLI License No. 540727



FPC.LC

FPC.LC/News

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Website

Newsletter Sign-Up

Online Church Calendar

Livestream and/or
Replay Worship Services

More information can be found on our website 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

Thank You! *Salt & Light*
to everyone who volunteered and came to the
Annual Salt & Light Picnic!

*We could not have done it without all of you. All of your hard work and
dedication is truly appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed!*

We will see you all Vacation Bible School!

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On our regular fourth Friday, 4/24, we'll be getting
together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM.

Dinner will be catered this time. After dinner, we'll

enjoy a truly remarkable video, "Soul of the
Ocean." Please let the Ames know by Monday,

April 20th, that you plan to come by calling

575-526-3247, call for more information about In-Betweeners, or just
catch us after Worship.



Friendly

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 12th

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 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 in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, April 13th

8:00 AM Adult Learning in Watkins Hall

Tuesday, April 14th

8:00 AM Adult Learning in Watkins Hall

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

7:00 PM Committee Night in Jones Hall

Wednesday, April 15th

12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

Thursday, April 16th

1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
5:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall

Friday, April 17th
Office Closed

Saturday, April 18th

Sunday, April 19th

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