



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

7th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026 — 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"O God, My Faithful God" (hymn tune from 1679)
1957)

Michael Burkhardt (b.

"O Savior of the World"
(1800-1880)

John Goss

"O Worship the King" (tune by Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806) Neil Harmon (b. 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

"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now."

CHORAL INTROIT

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kuyper

Bill

Leader: Open our minds.

People: May they be fertile soil for your word and ways.

Leader: Open our hearts.

People: May they be filled with love of neighbor & a passion for justice.

Leader: Open our hands.

People: That we use them to build a world of compassion & hope.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #394 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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

We worship you with joy, awesome God. Through times of trial and suffering, your love has sustained us. You have restored our self-confidence when we floundered in doubt and fear. You have been our protector through the wilderness. Meet us now in the particular situations each of us faces. Pour out your presence that we may be resources to one another, finding our oneness and our prime vocation in Jesus Christ. May our worship honor you and equip us to serve you. **“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)

Without You, Lord Jesus, we would be lost in a dark and despairing world, without joy and without life. Without You, Lord Jesus, we would be frozen in a cold and meaningless existence, without hope and without a future. But, You are the Risen and Living One Who leads us out of our tombs of despondency & fear and fills our lives with rejoicing. And so, we give You our gratitude – in the words we speak, in the songs we sing and in the lives we live, wholly filled with You.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Let the righteous be joyful! The God of all grace cares about you and wants the very best for you, in company with all God’s children.

People: God restores, supports, and strengthens us. God establishes us as persons of worth and as a community of faithful, loving people.

Leader: Individually and together, we are called to eternal glory in Christ, whose love we share.

People: Praise be to God.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #71 "Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me" FIRST SONG

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rebekah West

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

CALL TO PRAYER #465 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" CONVERSE

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" Carl F. Mueller

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 68 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 Dr. Catherine Brewer

Psalm 68 (The Message)

Up with God! Down with his enemies! Adversaries, run for the hills! Gone like a puff of smoke, like a blob of wax in the fire—one look at God and the wicked vanish. When the righteous see God in action they'll laugh, they'll sing, they'll laugh and sing for joy. Sing hymns to God; all heaven, sing out; clear the way for the coming of Cloud-Rider. Enjoy God, cheer when you see him!

Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in his holy house. God makes homes for the homeless, leads prisoners to freedom, but leaves rebels to rot in hell.

God, when you took the lead with your people, when you marched out into the wild, Earth shook, sky broke out in a sweat; God was on the march. Even Sinai trembled at the sight of God on the move, at the sight of Israel's God. You pour out rain in buckets, O God; thorn and cactus become an oasis. For your people to camp in and enjoy. You set them up in business; they went from rags to riches.

The Lord gave the word; thousands called out the good news: "Kings of the armies are on the run, on the run!" While housewives, safe and sound back home, divide up the plunder, the plunder of Canaanite silver and gold. On that day that Shaddai scattered the kings, snow fell on Black Mountain.

You huge mountains, Bashan mountains, mighty mountains, dragon mountains. All you mountains not chosen, sulk now, and feel sorry for yourselves, For this is the mountain God has chosen to live on; he'll rule from this mountain forever. The chariots of God, twice ten thousand, and thousands more besides, The Lord in the lead, riding down Sinai—straight to the Holy Place! You climbed to the High Place, captives in tow, your arms full of plunder from rebels, And now you sit there in state, God, sovereign God!

Blessed be the Lord—day after day he carries us along. He's our Savior, our God, oh yes! He's God-for-us, he's God-who-saves-us. Lord God knows all death's ins and outs.

What's more, he made heads roll, split the skulls of the enemy As he marched out of heaven, saying, "I tied up the Dragon in knots, put a muzzle on the Deep Blue Sea." You can wade through your enemies' blood, and your dogs taste of your enemies from your boots.

See God on parade to the sanctuary, my God, my King on the march! Singers out front, the band behind, maidens in the middle with castanets. The whole choir blesses God. Like a fountain of praise, Israel blesses God. Look—little Benjamin's out front and leading Princes of Judah in their royal robes, princes of Zebulun, princes of Naphtali. Parade your power, O God, the power, O God, that made us what we are. Your temple, High God, is Jerusalem; kings bring gifts to you. Rebuke that old crocodile, Egypt, with her herd of wild bulls and calves, Rapacious in her lust for silver, crushing peoples, spoiling for a fight. Let Egyptian traders bring blue cloth and Cush come running to God, her hands outstretched.

Sing, O kings of the earth! Sing praises to the Lord! There he is: Sky-Rider, striding the ancient skies. Listen—he's calling in thunder, rumbling, rolling thunder. Call out "Bravo!" to God, the High God of Israel. His splendor and strength rise huge as thunderheads.

A terrible beauty, O God, streams from your sanctuary. It's Israel's strong God! He gives power and might to his people! O you, his people—bless God!

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 (NRSV)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

People: This is the word of the Lord.

SERMON

"We're Not Special"

Amon Taylor

CLOSING HYMN

#69 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

HERE I AM

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

#300 "We Are One in the Spirit" THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Improvisation

Dr. Howard Smolleck

*Liturgist-Jonathan West Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer*

Greeting before the Worship Service:

David Vandervelde-E Donna Marconi-W Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:

Bill Kuyper-E Amon Taylor-W Rebekah West-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	Scott Burns	Congregational Life
Erin Taylor	Moderator, Christian Education	Nancy Cowan	Missions
Jimmy O'Neal	Administration & Finance	Linda Ward	Moderator, Buildings & Grounds

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 Administration & Finance Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *A co-worker's family as they navigate some health issues.*
- *Valeria Carter's sister, Mae Johnson.*
- *My teacher who is now out of the hospital.*
- *Jennifer Hamilton and Kevin Gardner, for a full recovery and healing.*
- *Johnnie Aldrich, as she undergoes cancer treatment in Corpus Christi.*
- *Bill & Ruth Akins, as they prepare for their move to Tucson on May 30th.*
- *Continued healing for Bob & Linda Seaton.*
- *Tracy Howard, son of Diana Howard, whose 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.

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".



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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

LARGE Print Bulletins

We prepare an electronic large print bulletin each week for those who have difficulty reading the regular bulletin or hymnal. The words to the congregational hymns are also included in this document. You can print it as it is, or change the font size to better suit you. We also have a couple of people who leave it on their iPad or phone and read it off of that. If you'd like to receive the large print Bulletin via email please reach out to Rusty at smithdandr@yahoo.com.

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

We plan to get together on our regular fourth Friday, May 22nd, at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall. Dinner this time

is to be a planned potluck. Please let the Ames know you'll be coming by Monday, May 18th. Call 575-526-3247 or just catch us after Worship!

May

Sunday, May 17th

- 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, May 18th

Tuesday, May 19th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for *The Good News*
- 7:00 PM Session meeting in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, May 20th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the *Sunday Bulletin*

Thursday, May 21st

- 11:00 AM Knitting Group in Jones Hall Parlor

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

Friday, May 22nd

Office Closed

Saturday, May 23rd

Sunday, May 24th

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