



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026 — 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Redeeming Grace" (traditional American hymn)

setting by K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord"

(American hymn on Ps. 89 by James Henry Fillmore 1849-1936)

setting by Joe E. Parks (1927-1993)

Variations on "That Priceless Grace" (Ghanaian hymn tune)

David Lasky (b. 1957)

****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

This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. Blessed is the one who does this— the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and keeps their hands from doing any evil." *Isaiah 56:1-2*

CHORAL INTROIT

"Here in This Place"

GATHER US IN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diana Howard

Leader: This is a Sabbath dedicated to our God. Let this gathering place be a home for all people.

People: **May God be gracious to us and bless us. May God's face shine over all the earth's people.**

Leader: Let all the people praise the God of all nations. Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings God gives.

People: May God grant us understanding and courage. May faith grow beyond our doubts.

Leader: The earth has yielded its blessing. Let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator.

People: God brings us together in unity of purpose. May our circle grow as we welcome newcomers.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #307 "God of Grace and God of Glory" WAYFARING STRANGER
Chancel Choir

***PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, we are so blessed to call you Father, to know the mercies and gifts you so willingly share with us. There is no way to earn your love and we marvel at the miracles in our life that come freely to us from your love and care. We sing your praise today, God, and thank you for our salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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!" WAYFARING STRANGER
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Heavenly Father, our speech and our actions call into question our faithfulness to You. In times of stress, we have made statements that we regret. Jealousy and anger have led to deceit, betrayal, and broken relationships. Our best intentions sometimes go astray. Forgive us, O God, for the sin we recognize in ourselves and the wounds we do not see. Show us how we have hurt one another and grant us courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Reveal to us our disobedience to you and grant us your mercy for our sins. Cleanse us for a new life in Christ. Amen

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

God is merciful toward us and listens to our honest prayers. Our thoughts and deeds are fully known to God, who is eager to forgive and to lead us to new understandings.

When we earnestly seek God's help, we are set free to discover new opportunities and make amends. Even in the worst of circumstances, God works with us to bring about good and to preserve life. May God be praised!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #613 "O Lord, Our Lord" HOW MAJESTIC

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rebekah West

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

CALL TO PRAYER "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" HEAR MY PRAYER
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "Do Not Be Afraid" ISAIAH 43

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Genesis 45:4-11 Matthew 15:10-19 Kathleen Gardner

Genesis 45:4-11 (NIV)

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

Matthew 15:10-19 (NIV)

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them." Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides.[a] If the blind

lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

DOXOLOGY	#606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”	OLD HUNDRETH
SERMON	“Dynamic Characters”	Kathleen Gardner
CLOSING HYMN	#306 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”	DENNIS

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*CHORAL BENEDICTION	“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”	RANDOLPH
*POSTLUDE	Hymn Tune Improvisation	Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Diana Howard Deacon Captain-Dawn Griffin-O’Neal
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Vicki Kuyper-E Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-W Divine Mboh-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Rebekah West-E Kathleen Gardner-W Diana Howard-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
Jim Parks	President, Foundation	*Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session
Wanda Mattiace	Moderator, 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 time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Music & Worship Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *Lyn Ames' nephew Brent, who has had surgery for a spinal injury at work and is facing serious complications in recovery.*
- *Kathy Story.*
- *Amber Nolan.*
- *Tamala, cousin of Amber Nolan.*
- *Simon, friend of Amber & Johnny, who's been experiencing a mental health crisis.*
- *Valeria Carter's sister, Mae Johnson.*

Continued Prayer List

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



8/20 Harry Topley

8/20 Ralph Miller

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”.



CCLI License no. 540727



FPC.LC
Website



FPC.LC/News
Newsletter Sign-Up



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Online Church Calendar



FPC.LC/Sermons
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.

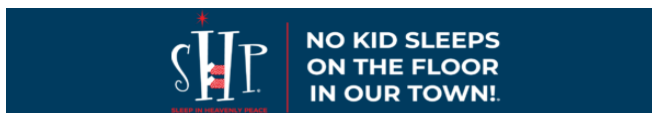
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526.5559

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

In the Life of the Church

Salt & Light

Salt & Light will begin on Wednesday, September 9th!
Stay tuned for more information!



Just letting everyone know we are looking for volunteers for this years Bunks Across America build event. We are looking to build 100 beds September 12th and we need everyone's help. The event runs from 8am to 3pm and there are 2 shifts available, 8 to 12 and 11 to 3. You are welcome to sign up for both if your willing. We hope you will join us again in this great opportunity to help 100 kids get into conventional beds!

To sign up for either or both shifts just go to:
<https://x.gldn.io/e/omojoJG704b>

Call me with any questions
Dennis Smith
Build Manager SHP-Elephant Butte
575-496-2112

Please contact Tom Marconi for more
Information on on volunteering for
Bunks Across America.



*The Chancel Choir will begin on
Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 PM
and Handbells will begin on
Monday, September 14th at 7:00 PM*

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

Save the date! Our regular fourth Friday falls on August 28th. Dinner will be catered this time. For information, or to let us know you'll be there, call the Ames at 575-636-0210, or catch us after Worship.



Sunday, August 16th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Catie Brewer, viewing and discussing the video series "Invitation: A Bible Study to Begin With." Come any Sunday you can; the sessions are independent.
- 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, August 17th

Tuesday, August 18th

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

Wednesday, August 19th

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

Thursday, August 20th

- 10:00 AM Knitting Group in Jones Hall Parlor
- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, August 21st

Office Closed

Saturday, August 22nd

Sunday, August 23rd

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Catie Brewer, viewing and discussing the video series "Invitation: A Bible Study to Begin With." Come any Sunday you can; the sessions are independent.
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