



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2026 — 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, Forgive Our Foolish Ways"

(hymn by Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927) - setting by Rebecca James (2013)

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" (hymn by William H. Doane, 1870)

setting by Robert J. Hughes (1916-1999)

Fantasia on "Christ, Our God, a King Remaineth" (tune by William Owen, 1813-1893)

setting by John Innes (b. 1937)

**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

"Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive."

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

CHORAL INTROIT

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

BARONITA

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diana Howard

Leader: Welcome to this time of worship, where we life up God's name and encourage each other.

People: **We need this time for reassurance and strengthening for all we face in life.**

Leader: Here we remember the faith we hold in common and find renewal and courage.

People: **It is often difficult to sense God's presence in the headlines or in our daily contacts.**

Leader: Here we are together to hear the still, small voice of God so we can recognize and follow God when we are apart.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #234 "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" ST. KEVIN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Grant that all of us may be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple, acceptable to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, even as we pray: **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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION #444 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" DETROIT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, you have called us to live in faith and freedom but we live with tightness in our chests. You have called us to move in a new direction but we cling to the path we know. You have called us to reach outward in love but we hesitate. We draw inward for protection, instead. You have called us to live with abandon, in trust, but we live carefully, in fear. In the name of Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and bought our lives at a great price, forgive us and renew a right spirit within us. Amen

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the Good News! God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: God spares nothing to redeem us, even the life blood of Jesus, poured out on our behalf.

Leader: Our Creator meets us where we are - in the wilderness, in crowded places, at work, at home, at worship.

People: By God's saving grace, we are set free from sin to live fully as God intends.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News! In Jesus our Savior, we are forgiven!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #729 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”
Chancel Choir

HEAR MY PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Arr. Emily Lund

PROCLAIM GOD’S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 4:23-24 Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Larry Hicks

Genesis 4:23-24 (*New Jerusalem Bible*)

Adah and Zillah, hear my voice. Wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I killed a man for wounding me, a boy for striking me. Sevenfold vengeance for Cain, but seventy-sevenfold for Lamech,

Matthew 18:21-35 (*New Jerusalem Bible*)

Then Peter went up to him and said, “Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?” Jesus answered, “Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.” “And so the kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents. He had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet, with the words, ‘Be patient with me and I will pay the whole sum.’ And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe me.’ His fellow servant fell at his feet and appealed to him saying, ‘Be patient with me and I will pay you.’ But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow-servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for the man and said to him, ‘You wicked servant. I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?’ And in his anger, the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.”

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 "The Forgiving Tree" Rev. Larry Hicks

CLOSING HYMN #435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" IN BABILONE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Diana Howard Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Jonathan West Video-Will Schroeder

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

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Diana Howard-E Rev. Larry Hicks-W Amon Taylor-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 Congregational Life & Outreach Support Committee of Session.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *Dennis Thomas, and his family as they are all dealing with Dennis' health.*
- *Mateo Alaniz who is battling health issues.*
- *Lyn Ames' nephew Brent, who has moved to a rehab facility now, but his recovery is proving difficult. Your prayers are truly appreciated.*
- *Salt & Light as we begin the semester.*
- *Valeria Carter.*
- *Sandra Valencia as she recovers from her surgery.*
- *Kathy Story, Ed Mathis, Cheri & Arnold McMillan, Charlie Mathis, Munselle Pientke, and Amber Nolan.*
- *Valeria Carter's sisters, Mae Johnson & Margaret.*

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.

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



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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

Salt & Light

This Wednesday, September 16th our theme is Disciples Follow Jesus. Dinner will be Caesar chicken wraps, french fries, grapes, and chocolate pudding cups for dessert.

The east parking lot restriping project will begin on Monday, September 14th through Wednesday, September 16th. Please refrain from parking in the east lot as it will be taped off.



We are beginning to accept donations for the Youth Yard Sale.

Donations can be dropped off Monday-Thursday from 10AM to 2PM. Please call the office if you need to make some accommodations.

The Youth Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 10th.

In-Betweeners Coming Up!

On Friday evening, September 25th, we'll be getting together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for a catered dinner (cost, \$15/person.) After dinner, "The Salty Dogs" bluegrass band will entertain! For more information, or to let us know you're coming, contact Ames at 575-636-0210.

9/15 Paul Green



9/16 William Schroeder



Sunday, September 13th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Rev. Larry Hicks studying the book of Jeremiah.
- 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, September 14th

Tuesday, September 15th

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

Wednesday, September 16th

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

Thursday, September 17th

- 10:00 AM Knitting Group in Jones Hall Parlor
- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor
- 5:30 PM Deacons Meeting in Jones Hall

Friday, September 18th

Office Closed

Saturday, September 19th

Sunday, September 20th

- :00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Rev. Larry Hicks studying the book of Jeremiah.
- 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
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