



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2026 — 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"Autumn"

William Stickles (1882-1971)

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (tune from The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844)

Tom Birchwood (1986)

Variants on "Your Endless Love, Your Mighty Acts" (tune by Jeremiah Clarke, 1707)

Stephen Walters (1934-2015)

You are invited to follow the text of the last two preludes in the pew hymnal (Nos. 444 and 60)

****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

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given. *Frederick William Faber*

CHORAL INTROIT

"God's Mercy"

Zollene Reissner

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joseph Higginbotham

Psalms 145

Leader: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

People: **Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.**

Leader: They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate. They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

People: **The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #645 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” MIT FREUDEN ZART

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling to us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread and boundless grace. Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy alongside others whom you also love. We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other people whom you also love. We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other people, even those we had not imagined would be included in the kingdom you are bringing. Align us with your ways and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news. **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 “O Lord, Have Mercy” ORE PORIAJU VEREKO
Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. May we ask once again for your mercy? Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another?

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it.

People: **God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ; therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people! Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #36 “For the Fruit of All Creation” AR HYDY NOS

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Rebekah West

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

CALL TO PRAYER #472 “Kum ba Yah” KUM BA YAH

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"I Will Sing With the Spirit"
Juliana Garcia, Solo

John Rutter

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Matthew 20:1-16

Erin Taylor

Jonah 3:10-4:11(NRSV)

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them

also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 "Abounding in Love" Erin Taylor

CLOSING HYMN #351 "All Who Love and Serve Your City" CHARLESTOWN

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "God's Mercy" ZOLLENE REISSNER

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Joseph Higginbotham Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Rusty Smith Video-Brent Brewer

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Bob Distlehorst-E Dawn Griffin-O'Neal-W Divine Mboh-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Rebekah West-E Erin Taylor-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	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

- Jonathan West, who is struggling with some issues with his knee.*
- For all the people who are ill and for our church.*
- Amber Nolan as she is coping and dealing with a severe nervous system dysfunction.*
- Nancy Cowan's brother Larry, who will be having surgery to remove a blockage from his heart on Sept. 22nd.*
- Donna Curtis who is dealing with glaucoma.*
- Carol & Charlie Mathis from Santa Teresa.*
- Ed & Donna Mathis, Carole Cook, Julie Glende, and Munsealle Pientlea.*
- Arnold and Cheri McMillan, as they cope with Arnolds's health.*
- Marjorie Burr as she recovers from a broken femur, and another recent fall.*
- Valeria Carter's sisters, Mae Johnson & Margaret.*

Continued Prayer List

Dennis Thomas, Kathy Story, Sharon Pierce; Charlotte Brockway; Barb Wolflick; Sandra Valencia; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; 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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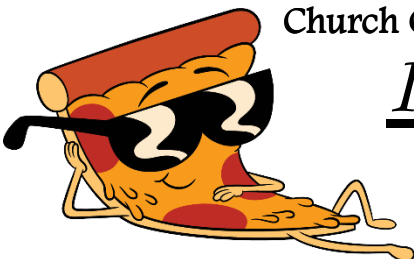
More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

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



Salt & Light

This Wednesday, September 23rd our theme is
Jesus Is Our Good Shepherd.

It's Pizza Night! You know what that means.....it's also birthday celebration night. Pizza will be served with a garden salad and ranch dressing, and cupcakes for dessert. See you all there!



Concert Time!

Friday, September 25th at 7:30 P.M. our very own Holly & Jacob Dalager will be performing an oboe and trumpet concerto with the NMSU Philharmonic Concert Band in Atkinson Recital Hall.



Youth Garage Sale

We are beginning to accept donations for the Youth Yard Sale. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Thurs 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 the Ames at 575-636-0210.



9/20 Sharon Rooney



Sunday, September 20th

- 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 21st

Tuesday, September 22nd

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

Wednesday, September 23rd

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

Thursday, September 24th

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

Friday, September 25th

Office Closed

Saturday, September 26th

Sunday, September 27th

- :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 Fellowship in Jones Fellowship Hall