



First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 27, 2026 — 10:30 AM
Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"How Lovely Are the Messengers That Preach the Gospel of Peace"

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

"Follow, Follow, I Will Follow Jesus" (tune by Robert Lowry, 1826-1899)

setting by Bob Burroughs (b. 1937)

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" (tune by George J. Webb, 1803-1887)

setting by L. S. Clark (1943)

**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

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of the others. (Philippians 2:1-4)

CHORAL INTROIT

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

LLANGLOFFAN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kendall Montgomery

Psalm 25:4-7

Leader: Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

People: **Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

Leader: Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

People: **Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(paraphrased from Psalm 78)

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of You, our Lord, Your power, and the wonders You have done. You did miracles in the sight of our ancestors in the land of Egypt. You divided the sea and led them through. You guided them with the cloud by day and light from the fire all night. You split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas. You led them in safety so that they were not afraid and brought them to Your holy hill. **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

"Holy Lamb of God"
Chancel Choir

YA HAMALALLAH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, we are a rebellious people. You have asked us to put You first in our lives, but we have let other things take Your place. You have told us to care for the needy and welcome the stranger; instead, we have chosen to look out for our own interests. You have given us what we need in life and blessings besides, yet we crave things that do not belong to us. Help us to recognize when we have gone against Your will. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us back to the way we should go so that we might live as Your people.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: God did not leave us to the consequences of our rebellion. Jesus followed God's way perfectly. His death on the cross has removed our sins and reconciled us to God.

People: **Jesus' resurrection on Easter is proof that our debt is paid.**

Leader: How are you righteous before God?

People: **Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.** (Heidelberg Catechism #60)

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #832 "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA
Congregation to sing refrain
Choral Scholars to sing verses

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Debra Smith
• Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER #468 "In My Life" LORD, BE GLORIFIED

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "A City Called Heaven" Arr. Victor Johnson

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Matthew 21:23-32 Dr. Catherine Brewer

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise, iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Matthew 21:23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?"

And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So, they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

The Parable of the Two Sons

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

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 Son Who Changed His Mind and Went" Dr. Catherine Brewer

CLOSING HYMN #39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Farewell, Good Friends!" SHALOM, CHAVERIM

*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Kendall Montgomery Deacon Captain-Kathleen Gardner
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:
Vicki Kuyper-E Dave Vandervelde-W Divine Mboh-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Kendall Montgomery-E Dr. Catherine Brewer-W Debra Smith-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 Ames family.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- Diane Davidson as she travels.*
- Donna Curtis who is dealing with glaucoma.*
- Carol & Charlie Mathis from Santa Teresa.*
- Ed & Donna Mathis, Carole Cook, Julie Glende, and Munsealle Pientlea.*
- 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:

- 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”.



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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 30th our theme is *Backwards Night!*
Dinner will be sloppy joes, tater tots, carrot sticks, and cupcakes for dessert.
Due to last week's cancelation, we will be celebrating birthdays that evening.
We look forward to seeing you all there!



International Potluck Lunch

Our International Potluck Lunch will be held on Sunday, October 4th in
Watkins Fellowship Hall following our World Communion Service.
Please be sure to bring one of your favorite heritage dishes for everyone to
enjoy!



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

9/27 Judith Ames

9/30 Marsha Topely

10/2 Pat Felhauer



9/29 Linda Pearson

10/1 Sarah Loman

Sunday, September 27th

- 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 28th

- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 29th

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

Wednesday, September 30th

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

Thursday, October 1st

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

Friday, October 2nd

Office Closed

Saturday, October 3rd

Sunday, October 4th

- :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
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