



We are glad you are here. You are invited to participate in the service to the degree you are comfortable. Please write your name and address on the attendance pad when it is passed and gather for a time of friendship and refreshment in the Fellowship Hall following worship. A church Elder will be at the communion table after worship to answer any questions you may have about membership or the church.

- ✦ **Christmas Cantata** – TODAY in the sanctuary, 3:00 p.m. The cantata is “Joy” by Joel Raney, conducted by Amy Hufnal with narrator Chad Boliek. Please come, enjoy the music, and enjoy cookies afterward!
- ✦ **Christmas Eve Service** – Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
- ✦ Our Advent study, from *The Thoughtful Christian*, is “From Longing to Receiving.” Handouts will be available at each class for the next week’s study. If you need a handout for next week, please stop by the church office.
- ✦ December Samaritan House Food Donations: Canned Meats & Fish
- ✦ Dana Millen from the New Mexico Health Security Act will present this health care program to cover all residents of New Mexico at a light lunch/presentation Sunday, December 30, right after worship in Perea Hall. The event is sponsored by the Mission & Peacemaking Committee. Ms. Millen is inviting FUPC to join the 160 other organizations, municipalities, counties, non-profits and churches who have endorsed the program

Prayers for the Church Family - Please pray for Judi Ruprecht, Willy Ryan & Jane Warsaw, and Fred Salas and for Cuba Presbyterian Church, Cuba NM (1889). These names remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Monday, December 17

Noon – Buildings and Grounds

Tuesday, December 18

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. – Coffee with Katie – Charlie’s

6:30 p.m. – Session

Wednesday, December 19

6:15 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – Bell Rehearsal

Church Office: 505-425-7763

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

fupc.nm@gmail.com www.lvpresbyterian.com

Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356

pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com

December Elder of the Month –Karyl Lyne –505-454-9707

December Deacon of the Month – Christina Litherland – 505-429-1007

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

December 16, 2018

10:30 a.m.



We Are Messengers of God

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

MEDITATION - *Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.* -- Karl Barth

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

(Please use this time to share the peace of the Lord with your neighbor.)

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you

(Please return to your seat when the introduction to the hymn starts)

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

RESPONSIVE CHORAL INTROIT

Soloist/Congregation

One: Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

***All: Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.**

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Isaiah 35)

We anticipate joy. Look around:

See the desert blossom; it will rejoice with joy and singing.

Look ahead. What is coming?

We will see the glory of the Lord; our saving God will come.

Imagine. What will we do?

We will leap and sing for joy! We will walk on God’s Holy Way, a people redeemed, a people gifted with everlasting joy.

*** OPENING HYMN**

STF #2091 *The King of Glory Comes*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY +

We remember that, before we confess and no matter what we confess to God, we can be assured of God's Love and Mercy.

Leader: God fulfills holy promises. God comes to us, bringing us love, light, and joy.

People: Fill us with joy, O God, and teach us your love.

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION++

God of Light, you come into the world to bring freedom and joy. But so often we bind ourselves to the world's idols or to lists of "shoulds" and "have tos." Release us from our prisons; turn our hearts to your Holy Way. Fill us with the joy only you can provide—the joy that spills from us and fills others. We pause now in silent prayer. (Pause) In Christ's name, Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

STF #2085 *He Came Down* (x2)

He comes down that we may have joy;

He comes down that we may have joy;

He comes down that we may have joy; Hallelujah forever more.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *Sing Joy!* from JOY! A Gospel Christmas Celebration
George Frideric Handel, Arr. Joel Raney

CHECKING THE MAIL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE AND JOY (see insert)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 42:1-9 Pew Bible Page 584

SERMON *A Message of Joy* Rev. Katie Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PH #40 *Joy to the World!*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise God and Son and Holy Ghost.**

**A Dios el Padre celestial;
Al Hijo nuestro redentor
Y al eternal Consolador,
Unidos todos alabad. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Lord in your Mercy (or Lord, with joy)

(The people respond to each petition with "Hear our prayer")

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.

WE SEAL GOD'S WORD (see insert)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

SONG OF PREPARATION

Come to the Table of Grace (v. 5) – See insert

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

INSTITUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Communion will be passed in the pews.

Please take bread and hold it; we will eat together.

Likewise, please take a cup and hold it; we will drink together.

If you need gluten-free bread, please alert a server.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of Christmas Promise, God of Great Joy, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May this meal fill us with the joy of your love, giving us strength and courage to be your servants in the world. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

***CLOSING HYMN** STF #2279 *The Trees of the Field*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

Assisting in Worship Today

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – D.R. Palmer

Choir Director – Karl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Sound – Patrick Rucker/Sean Croto

Visuals – Tom Trigg/Linda Solyntjes

The flowers in the sanctuary are donated by
Pam's Flowers on the Plaza and arranged to the Glory of God.



The beautiful wreath on the front door is in honor
of Dottie Mann from her family