

*Welcome*

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 Eve Service** – Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
- ✦ There will be no Jump Start Breakfast or Sunday School class on December 30.
- ✦ The Sunday morning class for adults and youth will begin a new six-week discussion series on January 6 based on the book *The Third Reconstruction* by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. Books are available in the church office for \$8.
- ✦ December Samaritan House Food Donations: Canned Meats & Fish
- ✦ Year-End Donations - In order to be counted as tax-deductible, donations/contributions/pledges must be received no later than Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are mailing a check, it must be post-marked by December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to qualify.

**Prayers for the Church Family** - Please pray for .Jeff, Juli, Molly, and Mack Salman, Trudi Samuelson, and Shirley Sandoval and for Community Presbyterian Church, Datil NM (1958). These names remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery.

#### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

##### **Monday, December 24**

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

##### **Tuesday, December 25**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Church office closed

##### **Wednesday, December 26**

Church office closed

No choir rehearsals

Newsletter deadline

*Church Office: 505-425-7763*

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

[fupc.nm@gmail.com](mailto:fupc.nm@gmail.com)    [www.lvpresbyterian.com](http://www.lvpresbyterian.com)

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

[pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com](mailto: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 23, 2018

10:30 a.m.



**We Are Messengers of God**

#### **WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD**

**MEDITATION** - *Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.* - Lao Tzu

#### **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**

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** (based on Psalm 48 )

Great is the Lord!

**Yes! God is greatly to be praised.**

We ponder your steadfast love, O God.

**We feel your love wash over us as we gather in this place.**

God, your love reaches to the ends of the earth.

**Let us shout: you are our God; you will be our guide forever.**

**\* OPENING HYMN** PH #11, *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

## 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 and becomes for us Love Incarnate.

**People: Thanks be to God for filling us with love!**

## UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Steadfast God, you came to Joseph, encouraging him to take Jesus into his life. Joseph agreed. We, too, want to take Jesus into our lives, but we often fail to make room for him as we go about our days. Help us to commit, as Joseph and Mary did, to nurture Jesus in our lives and to demonstrate our commitment to him in all we do. 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 love;**

**He comes down that we may have love;**

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

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *Christmas Carol Celebration*  
by Douglas E. Wagner Rainbow Ringers

## CHECKING THE MAIL

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

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible Page 783

SERMON *A Message of Love* Rev. Katie Palmer

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

GTG #107, *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (see insert)

## 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. 3) – See insert*

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## INSTITUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

## COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Communion will be served by intinction.*

*Please come forward, take a piece of bread, and dip it in the cup.*

*Gluten-free elements are available near the west door.*

## UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

## WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

## BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

\*CLOSING SONG *Ukrainian Bell Carol* Rainbow Ringers  
by Mykolo Leontovich, arr. Hart Morris

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if you are able.

### Assisting in Worship Today

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – Christie Baskett

Choir Director – Karl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Sound – Patrick Rucker/Sean Croto

Visuals – D. R. Palmer/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