



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1000 Douglas Avenue Las Vegas NM 87701
January 21, 2018

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

MEDITATION – *Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.* – Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.

BELL INTROIT *Behold! The King Comes!* Bill Ingram

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from a poem by Howard Thurman)

God's tent is gone from our sanctuary

But our hearts live in it with Christ.

What now do we do

when the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their
flocks?

Now the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost, to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,

to make music in the heart.

*** OPENING HYMN** STF # 2027 *Now Praise The Hidden God Of Love*

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: Christ, consumed by love for God's people, assures us: we are loved, forgiven, and created anew.

People: Thanks be to God!

Mission & Peacemaking invites you to a light lunch and a presentation by Frank Beurskens after church today. The workshop, titled "The Other Side Has Another Side," challenges our belief that something must be either true or false, strong or weak, good or evil. In this time of conflict and controversy at every turn, this seems particularly timely and we're appreciative that Frank has volunteered to share it with us. Do plan to come!

Education Class for Adults And Youth--Rod Billingsley's class on *Old Testament Stories Your Mother Never Told You* runs through February 11.

Game Night - Join us for games, pizza and make-your-own ice cream sundaes. When: Friday, January 26, 2018, Where: Old Town Mission, Time: 5:30 p.m.

Worship Leader Training - In an effort to improve the flow and worshipful atmosphere of our services, the Worship & Music Committee has asked Pastor Katie to offer training for Worship Leaders. The first training session will take place on Sunday, January 28 from Noon - 2:30. We hope many people will attend and pick up helpful tips about being a better Worship Leader. Please email christie.baskett@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Asset Mapping opportunity for those who were not able to participate in our congregational retreat in October will be held on Sunday, February 4, at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come participate in this exercise to provide input on future mission and projects for the church. Please email Pastor Katie (pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com) or call the church office if you plan to attend.

Prayers for the Church Family - Please pray for Jackson Awuzing & Niki Sebastian, Allan Ayers & Lin Chibante, and Murl Baker as well as for United Presbyterian Church, Casa Blanca NM (1878). These names remind us to pray for each other and for the churches in our Presbytery.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Tuesday, January 23

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. - Coffee with Katie at Charlie's

5:15 p.m. – Deep and Wide Taizé at Old Town Mission

6:30 p.m. – Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 24

6:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir

7:00 p.m. – Rainbow Ringers

Friday, January 26

5:30 p.m. - Game Night at Old Town Mission

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us our shortcomings, O Holy One. Forgive us when we turn what is priceless and sacred into nothing more than commodity, doctrine, tradition, and habit. Embed in us recognition of the sanctity of all that you give us.

Turn us around, toward those things you would have us do to free ourselves and others from “business as usual” and instead to build community based on the model of your sacrificial love. We offer now our silent prayers. (Pause in silent prayer.) Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE from STF #2167, *More Like You*

More like you, Jesus, more like you.

Fill my heart with your desire to make me more like you.

More like you, Jesus, more like you.

Touch my lips with holy fire and make me more like you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 146 Pew Bible Page 507

ANTHEM *To Dwell in Unity* Valerie Stephenson

SCRIPTURE READING John 2:13-25 Pew Bible Page 863

SERMON *Religion for Sale* Rev. Katie Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

For the Healing of the Nations (on insert) from GTG #346

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

CALL TO OFFERING

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;	A Dios el Padre celestial;
Praise God all creatures here below;	Al Hijo nuestro redentor
Praise God above ye heavenly host;	Y al eternal Consolador,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.	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*”)

THE LORD’S 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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

SONG OF PREPARATION STF #2268 *As We Gather at Your Table*

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

Gracious God, you are the Holy One who nourishes and guides us. Thank you for inviting us to sit together at your table. As we leave the table this morning fed by the love that Jesus’ birth brought to us, let us go out to do the work of Christmas. Let us free those imprisoned by untruths into the freedom of your love; let us rebuild community in your name. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

CLOSING HYMN *Now Go In Joy* (on insert) from GTG #745 (sing twice)

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

Assisting in Worship Today

Pastor – Rev Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – Deb Reid

Choir Director – Karyl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Sound – Patrick Rucker/Sean Croto

Visuals – Jackson Awuzing/Linda Solyntjes

Communion is offered each Sunday from October 1 through Pentecost (May 20, 2018) and on the first and third Sundays of each month from June through September. We do not celebrate Communion on the fifth Sunday of a month due to the addition of the Healing Liturgy to the service.

Church Office: 505-425-7763

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

Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 505-231-1923

January Elder of the Month – Christie Baskett – 505-930-0667

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