



First United Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. You are invited to participate in the service to the degree you are comfortable. Please write your name and address on the friendship pad when it is passed and gather for a time of friendship and refreshment in Perea 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.

- ★ You're invited to **HOPE! A Gospel Christmas Celebration** by Joel Raney, at 3:00 pm TODAY in the sanctuary. Reception in Perea Hall will follow.
- ★ **Congregational Meeting** - Sunday, December 22 following worship to act on the Nominating Committee's nomination to fill a vacancy on the Session.
- ★ **Decorating the Tree** - You're invited to decorate the Christmas tree in Perea Hall on Sunday, December 22 during fellowship time.
- ★ **Garden Well Project** - Mission & Peacemaking Committee members will be in Perea Hall to accept donations for the Presbyterian Giving Catalog Garden Well Project through December. Cards are available for people wanting to dedicate their contribution in someone's name for Christmas. You can also put a check in the offering plate with Garden Well Project in the memo line or use Online Giving from the church website.
- ★ **Christmas Joy Offering** - Mission & Peacemaking also reminds you about PCUSA's Christmas Joy Offering, which supports ethnic education schools and retired church workers in need. Please put your gifts for this into the offering plate with Christmas Joy Offering in the memo line or use Online Giving from the church website.
- ★ **Bible-based Class** - Please join us for our Advent study, *The Messiah*, written by Hebrew Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann and led by Pastor Katie.
- ★ **Samaritan House Food Donations** - December- Canned meat, tuna, chicken
- ★ **Fellowship Snack Schedule for December:**
- ★ 12/22-- Lisa Weinstein
- ★ 12/29-- Carol Litherland
- ★ **Prayers for the Church Family** - Please pray for Rustie Mountjoy, Don Owens, and Katie & D. R. Palmer as well as the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Peñasco NM (1881).
 - ★ The wreath on the front door of the church is given by Lon and Lindsley Silagi in memory of Dottie B Mann.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Monday, December 16

11:00 a.m. – Deacons

Tuesday, December 17

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

6:30 p.m. – Session

Wednesday, December 18

6:00 p.m. – Rainbow Ringers Rehearsal



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

December 15, 2019

10:30 a.m.

PREPARE THE WAY

MEDITATION – *Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.* –Melody Beattie

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Arielle Hawney, Mustard Seed Grant Recipient

***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)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear!

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP/LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**

Our Advent journey continues today as we follow a pathway of stars to the manger.

Let us prepare the way for the Christ child!

Song (on insert): *Now It's Time to Light the Candle*, v. 1, 2, & 3

We prepare the way for the one who will give us light by which to see God's promises fulfilled.

We light the candle of hope

as we hope for the one who will come to us, bringing justice and righteousness to our broken world. Let us live in hope!

We light the candle of peace

as we anticipate the one who comes in peace. Let us prepare the way of peace!

We light the candle of joy

As we rejoice in the unity the Christ child will bring. Let us join our voices together in praise!

*** OPENING HYMN**

GTG #107, *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

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.

One: In God's forgiveness, we know grace, we know new life, we know joy!

Many: Thanks be to God!

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

God of Love and Promise, when we look around our world, we are easily disheartened. So many of your people are hurting; so many have needs that overwhelm us. Forgive us when we are tempted to give up, to see only the hurt in the world, and not the moments of joy. Guide our senses to catch glimpses of joy in a child's wonder, to hear the joyous melody of a songbird, to rejoice in a ray of sunlight. Make us grateful for the opportunity to live out your joy and to work toward building a more joyful world (Pause in silent prayer) In Christ's name, Amen.

RESPONSE *He Came Down*

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *Heavenly Peace* Joel Raney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13 Pew Bible Page 366

SERMON *How Do We Rebuild God's House?* Rev. Katie Palmer

RESPONSE GTG #100, *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

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 God and 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*")

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

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 New Life, thank you for the abundance of this table. May it nourish us to prepare your way in the world. May it fill us with joy. May it encourage us to live confidently in your promises and eager to share your love. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*CLOSING HYMN GTG #134, *Joy to the World*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Please stand if you are able.

Assisting in Worship Today

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – Siobhan Croto

Chancel Choir Director – Karyl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Sound – Patrick Rucker

Visuals – D.R. Palmer/Linda Solyntjes

December Elder of the Month – D.R. Palmer – 303-775-7259

December Deacon of the Month – Patrick Rucker – 505-718-9707

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

505-425-7763

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

