

HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find the bulletin for Sunday's worship service. Join us Sunday at 10:30 in the sanctuary, via zoom by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081>, or by phone (312-626-6799). If you're joining by phone, enter meeting ID 573-920-0081. If you've not used zoom before, follow the instructions provided at the link.



**THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED**

**Monday, February 28**

11:00 a.m. – Deacons

**Tuesday, March 1**

7:30 a.m. – Personnel via Zoom

9:00 a.m. - Coffee with Katie

**Wednesday, March 2**

5:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Worship

**Thursday, March 3**

9:30 a.m. – Worship and Music

5:00 p.m. – Amnesty International via Zoom

**Sunday, March 6**

Congregational Meeting following Worship



First United Presbyterian Church  
1000 Douglas Avenue  
PO Box 37  
Las Vegas NM 87701

**WELCOME!!** - We extend a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us this week

February 23, 2022

Dear FUPC Family and Friends,

This Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday, usually observed by reading the account of Jesus' trip up the mountain with a couple of his disciples, who see him transfigured into radiant light. But the transfiguration does not appear in John's gospel, in which we are reading deeply this year. Instead, we will hear another of Jesus' "I Am" sayings, this time, "I am the Light," and we will hear a story about healing, physical sight, and spiritual seeing.

Please note that we will return to our hybrid worship format next month, beginning on Wednesday, March 2, with the Ash Wednesday service.

I hope you will join us for the Ash Wednesday service, whether online or in the sanctuary. Oftentimes, I hear that special Lenten services (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday at FUPC) are too sad, too depressing, and so people choose not to attend. I believe, however, that it is important to show our commitment to Christ by our willingness to look inside ourselves to come to ever more mature spiritual understanding and by standing with Jesus whether in the joy of Christmas and Easter or the pain of Good Friday. Otherwise, we risk what theologian and preacher Barbara Brown Taylor calls "full solar spirituality"—a spirituality in which the Christian life is all sunlight and happy times. But we know better, don't we? We know that following Christ does not mean we don't experience dark times, sorrow, and pain, so it's worth spending time thinking about how our faith encompasses both joy and sorrow. During our Lenten season this year, we will be thinking about how we recognize and follow Jesus' voice above the din of all the other noise in our lives. I hope that, during Lent, you'll have quiet prayer time during which you simply listen for Christ's voice.

With thanks for all of you,  
Pastor Katie

**Assisting in Worship This Week**

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Director of Music - Karyl Lyne

Office Manager – Crystal Western Ford

Head Usher – Kevin Johnson

Worship Leader – Karyl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer

Sanctuary Design – Charlotte Wootton

*March Elder of the Month – Corky Halverson – 505-234-7914*

*March Deacon of the Month – Renee Soderlund – 505-429-1885*

*Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Noon*

*[fupc.nm@gmail.com](mailto:fupc.nm@gmail.com) 505-425-7763 [www.lvpresbyterian.org](http://www.lvpresbyterian.org)*

*Rev Katie Palmer – Office: 425-7763 Cell: 303-775-7356 [pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkatiepalmer@gmail.com)*



## FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

February 27, 2022

10:30 a.m.

### WHO WAS THIS MAN?

**MEDITATION** - *We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when [people] are afraid of the light. --Plato*

### WE GATHER TOGETHER

**WELCOME**

Rev. Katie Palmer

**PRELUDE**

Em Krall

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Karyl Lyne

*Let us make a commitment during this time to call someone today,  
visit with them and wish them the peace of Christ*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 27 in Nan Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

One: The God who is Love is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**All: Love is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

One: When fears assail me, rising up to accuse me, each one in turn shall be seen in Love's light.

**All: Though a multitude of demons rise up within me, my heart shall not fear.  
Though doubts and guilt do battle, yet shall I remain confident.**

One: One thing that I have asked of the God of Love—a thing that I will always seek:

**All: That I might dwell in the Heart of Love all the days of my life and to know Love's Plan.**

One: Let us worship the God of Love!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN** *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet* (GTG #458)

### WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my

eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.'

**SERMON**

*The Man Who Brings Light*

Rev. Katie Palmer

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**WITH THANKS FOR GENEROUS GIVING**

*Doxology*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OPPORTUNITIES**

### WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

**CLOSING HYMN** *Come! Live in the Light!* (GTG #749)

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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## **OPPORTUNITIES**

Join us **TODAY at 3:00 p.m. for Zoom Bingo.** Just zoom in as you would for worship for Bingo fun (with prizes!).

We will return to **hybrid worship in March!** You are welcome to join us in the sanctuary or on Zoom; masks still required.

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2 with our **Ash Wednesday service**, which will be held at 5:30 p.m. Plan to join us as we enter into this time of introspection. You may attend in person or via Zoom.

We will hold the **Annual Congregational Meeting** following worship on Sunday, March 6, for the purpose of considering changes to our by-laws to allow for online meetings and voting and to approve the pastor's terms of call. Please mark your calendars!

Our **Lenten study begins next Sunday, March 6.** This year's study will be led by Pastor Katie Palmer, using the book *Looking for God in Messy Places* by Jake Owensby. Please join us to discuss this book that writer Ann Lamott calls "beautiful and brilliant stuff." Sessions will be Sundays, March 6, 13, & 20 and April 3 & 10. No class March 27. Class is from 9 to 10 a.m. on the same link as Sunday worship. The reading assignment for the first session is the Foreword (pp. xiii – xiv), Introduction (pp. xv – xx), and Part I, "How Love Gives Us Hope" (pp. 1-25).

The book is available new in paperback from the publisher (Abingdon) for \$18.99, from Cokesbury for \$13.99 and Amazon for \$17.69 (all plus shipping). Alibris has plenty of used copies for \$11 to \$13, and Amazon a few for as little as \$10.32 plus shipping. Electronic versions are available for \$10 to \$13. Paper Trail may also be able to order the book. If you have trouble ordering a copy, Richard Lindeborg can get one delivered to you for \$17.69 including shipping.



**FUPC has a tradition of contributing to the Souper Bowl of Caring.** Because of Covid precautions, this year we will just collect donations to be passed on to Samaritan House. Contribute on our website ([lvpresbyterian.org](http://lvpresbyterian.org)) by locating the Souper Bowl section or send in a check with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line. Thank you for your continued giving to our community!

**Samaritan House Food Donations** – March– Canned meats (tuna, chicken and stew). Coffee and Tea are always appreciated. Please drop your donations off at Samaritan House, 501 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Prayers for the Church Family** – Each week we choose some specific names to remind us to pray for each other and for those in our Presbytery. Please pray for Renate Rendon, Sharon and Ed Roe and Perla and Tony Romero as well as Community United Presbyterian Church, Jemez Springs, NM (1881).