



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.

- ★ **Congregational Meeting – Today** following worship to act on the Nominating Committee's nomination to fill a vacancy on the Session.
- ★ **Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Celebration** will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Plan to join us to hear and sing the Christmas story!
- ★ **The Las Vegas Jewish Community invites you to celebrate an Interfaith Peace Hanukkah** with a special presentation by Rabbi Rob Lennick, on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> in Perea Hall from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All are welcome. Admission is a vegetarian or dairy potluck dish to share. For more information, call: 505/617-5092.
- ★ **Sunday Class for Adults and Youth** - It is time to request books for the next discussion series of the Sunday class for adults and Youth. In January, Rod Billingsley will again be discussing various "Christian Doctrines" from Shirley Guthrie's book of the same title. If you have the book from his last series, read the chapter "Who Says So, The Doctrine of Authority" for the first session on **January 12**. If you need the book (3rd edition), order it online or ask Richard Lindeborg or the church office to order one for \$7.00. There will not be a class on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, January 5.
- ★ **Samaritan House Food Donations** - December- Canned meat, tuna, chicken
- ★ **Fellowship Snack Schedule for December:** 12/29-- Carol Litherland
- ★ **Prayers for the Church Family** - Please pray for Bob & Carrol Pearson, Chuck & Duffy Peterson, and Stella Pino as well as Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, Placitas, NM (1883).

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**

**Tuesday, December 24**

No Coffee with Katie  
Newsletter deadline

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship with Lessons & Carols

**Wednesday, December 25**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Saturday, December 28**

5:00 p.m. - Interfaith Peace Hanukkah Potluck in Perea Hall



**FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1000 Douglas Avenue, Las Vegas NM 87701

December 22, 2019

10:30 a.m.

**PREPARE THE WAY**

**MEDITATION**

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. —1 John 4:16*

**WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Lisa Weinstein, Interfaith Peace Hanukkah

**\*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**

*Christmas Joy Fanfare* by Douglas E. Wagner

Rainbow Ringers

**\*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 - 4

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!**

We light the candle of love

**as we approach the manger filled with the light of Christ's love. Let us open our hearts to Love!**

\* OPENING HYMN GTG #93, *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

**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: God loves us and forgives us; in God we know new life!

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Love and Promise, just as you sent John to prepare the way for Jesus, you send us to share the good news that Jesus has brought light to the world. Yet sometimes, O God, the good news seems so difficult to convey. Our own doubts and our hesitancy to speak of our faith interfere; we worry about not being articulate enough to adequately express your love. Guide us, we pray; reassure us that you will match our words with ears that can hear. Give us confidence to express what your light has meant in our lives. (Pause in silent prayer) In Christ's name, **Amen.**

**RESPONSE** *He Came Down*

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

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

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**ANTHEM** *Angel Tidings* by Cynthia Dobrinski Rainbow Ringers

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 1:5-13, 18-20, 57-79 Pew Bible Page 830

**SERMON** *How Do You Know God's Light?* Rev. Katie Palmer

**RESPONSE** *Christmas Light* by May Sarton Beth Urech

**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 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 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 your love. 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 #135, *There's a Star in the East*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Assisting in Worship Today**

Preacher – Rev. Katie Palmer

Worship Leader – Rudy Laumbach

Rainbow Ringers Director – Karyl Lyne

Accompanist – Em Krall

Sound – Patrick Rucker

Visuals – Tom Trigg/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

