Sunday, March 9, 2025

PROGRESSIVE • INCLUSIVE • COMMUNITY

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
• IN LAS CRUCES •

DoC UCC

Reach Up Reach Out Reach In

We are here to help people know God,
find freedom, discover their purpose,
and make a difference in the community, near and far.
No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey...
You are welcome here.

Welcome to First Christian Church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE.....Aletta Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP.....Jeanne Knotts

Please join in the responsive Call to Worship, with everyone giving voice to the bold text as found in this bulletin and on the screens.

On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

God, rescue us in the wilderness!

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

God, rescue us within the wilderness!

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

God, rescue us through the wilderness!

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them." Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

We Meet You, O Christ.....Chalice Hymnal, #183
Verses: 1, 3 & 4

Verse 1

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;
your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack;
we see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.

Verse 3

In human distress we still hear you cry;
for freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see.
The tree must be planted by human decree.

Verse 4

You choose to be made at one with the earth;
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word;
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

UNISON PRAYER.....Jeanne Knotts

God, you are our refuge. You are the shore in sight, you are hands that reach out, you are the ground on which to rest.

God, you are our strength. You are the life we long for, you are the refusal to give up, you are the keys of home we carry with us.

God, you are our help in time of trouble. We call on you from the ruins and the rubble, We call on you from the wildness and the deep, We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.

PASS THE PEACE.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

PRAYER TIME.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

HYMN OF GRATITUDE

Restless Weaver.....Chalice Hymnal, #658

Verses: 1, 2, & 4

Verse 1

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;
dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;
gathering up life's varied fibers every texture, every hue:
grant us your creative vision. With us weave a world anew.

Verse 2

Where earth's fragile web is raveling help us mend
each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration offering health
where once was pain
strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.

Verse 4

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be
binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:
you have called us to be weavers. Let your Love guide all we do.
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave
your world anew.

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

SPECIAL MUSIC.....Bell Choir

We Gather Together, Netherlands Folk Hymn

SCRIPTURE.....Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (NRSV)

SERMON.....Rev. Patrick Crocker
Course Corrections

COMMUNION HYMN
I Hunger and I Thirst.....Chalice Hymnal, Hymn #409
Verses: 1, 2, 3 & 4

Verse 1
I hunger and I thirst; Jesus my mana be!
O living waters, burst out of the rock for me!

Verse 2
O bruised and broken Bread, my life long needs supply.
As living souls are fed, so feed me, or I die.

Verse 3
O true life giving Vine, let me your goodness prove.
By your life sweeten mine, refresh my soul with love.

Verse 4
For still the desert lies behind me and before:
O living waters, rise within me ever more!

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST.....Deb Cook

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BENEDICTION.....Rev. Patrick Crocker

GOING FORTH HYMN

The Lord Bless You and Keep You.....Chalice Hymnal, #446

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you, be gracious;
the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

POSTLUDE.....Aletta Wilson

UPCOMING SERVICES

Services are at 10:15 am MST unless otherwise noted.

March 16, 2025
Worship Leader: Deb Cook
Offering: Paul Cook
Communion: Rev. Patrick Crocker

March 23, 2025
Worship Leader: Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
Offering: Debby Johnson
Communion: Paul Cook

March 30, 2025
Worship Leader: Hilda McKee
Offering: Melissa McKenzy-Shaw
Communion: Debby Johnson

April 6, 2025
Worship Leader: Karen Holmes
Offering: Scott Hays-Strom
Communion: Melissa McKenzy-Shaw

April 13, 2025
Worship Leader: Esther Devall
Offering: Deb Cook
Communion: Scott Hays-Strom

April 20, 2025
Worship Leader: Eric Hays-Strom
Offering: Esther Devall
Communion: Deb Cook

ABOUT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we celebrate communion weekly. We welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.

We are the United Church of Christ, committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. Why? Because God is still speaking.

We are an Open and Affirming community. In Christ's example, we want to offer all persons, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity the opportunity to discover and develop their gifts of God's love and service.

If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!

Please come worship with us again!

Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.
For more information, visit globalministries.org.
To assist with global crisis relief efforts, please visit:
DoC: www.weekofcompassion.org
UCC: www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bible Study.....Sunday, 9 AM

Worship Service*.....Sunday, 10:15 AM

Men's Breakfast (at University IHOP).....Wednesday, 9AM

Spiritual Practices.....Thursday, 9 AM

** Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church, and live-streamed via Zoom and Facebook Live.*

MONTHLY EVENTS

Celebrate Birthdays of the Month.....First Sunday, 11:30 AM
Contemplative Worship.....First Sunday, 6:30 PM
Crafter's Group.....First Wednesday, 6:30 PM
Potluck.....Third Sunday, 11:30 AM
Brown Bag Lunch.....Third Wednesday, 11:30 AM
Discussion Group.....Fourth Wednesday, 6:30 PM

STAY IN TOUCH

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