

LAS PLACITAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Living Faith, Loving God and Welcoming All

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 am

the Rev. Matthew Baugh, Pastor



Welcome to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

Your presence is a gift. We are glad you are here and hope you find the worship service to be meaningful. May God's peace go with you as you begin a new week. If you are looking for a church home, know you are welcome here.

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

- ☼ Join the Session in the Upper Room for conversation, observations and questions immediately after both services today.
- ☼ **Once again this year the LPPC Earth Care Fellowship will sponsor the Winter Solstice Poetry Reading (WSPR) today, Sunday, December 21, at 7 pm. This beloved, contemplative seasonal event, held in the beautiful candle-lit sanctuary of the historic Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, is memorable for the warmth of seasonal fellowship among friends and community and for the traditional reception afterwards. There is no admission charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. We hope you will join us!**
- ☼ You voted! The Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:00 pm. Las Posadas will start at 5:30 pm at the Catholic Mission on Paseo de San Antonio.
- ☼ ***Gracias a todas! Thanks to everyone for Dignity Mission donations this holiday season.*** LPPC youth made 200 Christmas kids' kits from the 100 books, 150 stuffed animals and other toys, dozens of puzzles, and countless craft items you generously shared. Plus 500+ pounds of beans & rice! These and other Dignity Mission donations are on their way to the border this weekend, just in time to warm the holidays for our sisters and brothers at the border. Gracias a todas!

Welcome Visitors - We welcome everyone visiting our service, whether this is your first time or you have worshipped with us before. We would love to be in touch with you, and ask that you fill out one of the blue cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We will have an opportunity in the near future for you to meet with our Pastor and Session, in order to get to know each other better and invite you to consider joining our wonderful church.

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December 21, 2025

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10:30 am

Order for Worship

~THE PEOPLE GATHER~

Welcome to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign one of the visitor cards to place in the offering plate, and everybody is encouraged to wear a name tag!

~ Please silence your cell phones. ~

Please stand or rise in spirit where items are noted with an asterisk.

~GATHERING AROUND THE WORD~

GATHERING MUSIC

Mindy Sampson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Chewning

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

INTROIT

“Star Bright”

Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Matthew Baugh

LEADER: As we come to worship, what do we bring?

PEOPLE: What can I offer, poor as I am? If I was a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

LEADER: If I was a wise one, I would do my part.

PEOPLE: What can I bring him? Bring him my heart?

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

READER: This is the fourth and last Sunday in Advent. We have saved the final candle for now, which is appropriate, for it is the candle of love. Without God’s love, none of these other things could exist: not hope for the future, not peace on earth, and not the joy in our hearts. All of these begin with God’s love, which fills our hearts, empowering us to love others as ourselves. This is the love that 1 Corinthians says: “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

READER 2: Now the waiting is almost over. Our hearts are filled with love, and we are ready to receive the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas morning.

*OPENING HYMN #144

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Glory to God

CALL TO CONFESSION

(James 5:15-16)

Virginia Watkins

The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

Let us confess our sins before God and each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Virginia Watkins

Lord, though you should guide us, we follow the voices of the world; though you should rule us, we obey our impulses; though you should fulfill us, we seek to fulfill our desires. We think your truth is too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! Without them, our lives are empty and selfish. Heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence. Do this for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(1 John 1:9)

Rev. Matthew Baugh

Hear the good news: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

SHARING SIGNS OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As God's beloved and forgiven people, let us greet each other with words and signs of God's peace.

Alle - Alle - Alle - luia

Alle - Alle - Alle - luia

Alle - Alle - Alle - luia

Alleluia, Alleluia

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Cristo me ama, bien lo se, Su palabra me hace ver

Que los niños son de Aquel, Quien es nuestro Amigo fiel

Cristo me ama, Cristo me ama, Cristo me ama, La Biblia dice así.

God, source of all light, by your Word, you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that our hearts and minds may be opened to know your truth and your way. Amen.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaías 35:1-10

Spanish liturgist: Eloise Sanchez

Se alegrarán el desierto y la soledad; el yermo se gozará y florecerá como la rosa. Florecerá profusamente, y también se alegrará y cantará con júbilo; la gloria del Líbano le será dada, la hermosura del Carmelo y de Sarón. Ellos verán la gloria de Jehová, la hermosura del Dios nuestro. Fortaleced las manos cansadas, afirmad las rodillas endebles. Decid a los de corazón apocado: Esforzaos, no temáis; he aquí que vuestro Dios viene con retribución, con pago; Dios mismo vendrá, y os salvará. Entonces los ojos de los ciegos serán abiertos, y los oídos de los sordos se abrirán.

Entonces el cojo saltará como un ciervo, y cantará la lengua del mudo; porque aguas serán cavadas en el desierto, y torrentes en la soledad. El lugar seco se convertirá en estanque, y el sequedal en manaderos de aguas; en la morada de chacales, en su guarida, será lugar de cañas y juncos.

Y habrá allí calzada y camino, y será llamado Camino de Santidad; no pasará inmundo por él, sino que él mismo estará con ellos; el que anduviere en este camino, por torpe que sea, no se extraviará. No habrá allí león, ni fiera subirá por él, ni allí se hallará, para que caminen los redimidos. Y los redimidos de Jehová volverán, y vendrán a Sion con alegría; y gozo perpetuo será sobre sus cabezas; y tendrán gozo y alegría, y huirán la tristeza y el gemido..

One: El misterio revelado para todos. **All: Gracias a Dios.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 1:18-25

English liturgist: Virginia Watkins

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the

virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

One: The mystery of the ages, revealed to all. **All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Choir

SERMON

“It Happened in This Way...”

Rev. Matthew Baugh

~RESPONDING TO THE WORD~

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #101

“¿Qué Niño Es?”

El Himnario

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46b-55)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name; indeed, God’s mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. God has shown strength with a mighty arm; God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; and has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. The Lord has come to the aid of the children of Israel, in remembrance of mercy, according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham’s descendants forever. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our father, who is in heaven, holy is your name.

Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE

*DOXOLOGY

Glory to God #240, refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give Praise to God’s Name.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dios, fuente de toda luz, por tu Palabra, iluminas el alma. Derrama sobre nosotros el espíritu de sabiduría y entendimiento, para que nuestros corazones y mentes se abran a conocer tu verdad y tu camino. Amén.

~FOLLOWING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD~

CLOSING HYMN #99

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Glory to God

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Matthew Baugh

POSTLUDE

Mindy Sampson

Finance Report for November 2025

Checking Account: Beginning Balance: \$110,694.31; Deposits: \$24,861.72

Withdrawals: \$32,174.64 Ending Balance: \$103,381.39

(This reflects \$99,499.00 grant money for the Hike/Bike Trail, which is not accessible to LPPC.

Year-to-date income and expenses: Operating Income: \$192,716 Program Income: \$83,139

Operating Expense: \$129,877 Program Expense: \$143,381

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	12/21/25	8:30 am	Early worship Service: Upper Room Conversation with Session 10:30 am Traditional Worship: Sanctuary Conversation with Session 7:00 pm Winter Solstice Poetry Reading 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous: Fellowship Hall
Monday	12/22/25	10:00 am	Spanish Class
Tuesday	12/23/25	9:30 am	Yoga
		10:30 am	Yoga
Wednesday	12/24/25	4:00 pm	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
Thursday	12/25/25		



Friday	12/26/25		
Saturday	12/27/25	8:00 am	Casa Rosa Pantry Distribution
Sunday	12/28/25	8:30 am	Early worship Service: Upper Room 10:30 am Traditional Worship: Sanctuary 7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous: Fellowship Hall

Attendance December 14

8:30 am Service: 10

10:30 am Service: 44

Zoom: 10

Our thanks to.....

	12/21/25	12/28/25
English Liturgist	Virginia Watkins	Janice Langdale
Spanish Liturgist	Eloise Sanchez	Eloise Sanchez
Ushers	Dawn Wolf Sue Hoff	Wendy Ingram Joyce Hoses
Refreshments	<i>Lynn Coburn</i>	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Audio-Visual	Carl Peterson	Parke Rhoads
Church Lock-up	Janice Langdale	Janice Langdale
	1/4/26	1/11/26
English Liturgist	Jeannette Swent	Michael McPherson
Spanish Liturgist	Eloise Sanchez	Miguel Zulueta
Ushers	Jacque Fletcher Don Turton	Reta Price Janice Langdale
Refreshments	<i>volunteer needed</i>	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Audio-Visual	John Bullock	Mike Potter

Our prayers for.....

BethAnne Bethel

Susan Booth

Doug Chapman

Jerry Clayton

Rob Clayton

Charlie DeLara

Johnathan DeLara

Missy DeLara

The family of Clarence Duran

Viola Duran

Bear Eriksson

Annette DeLara Good

Gordon Higby

Sue Hoff

Dan Howarth

David Howarth

Tommy Lucero

George Mueller and family

Reta Price

Alicia Rodarte and family

Ruby Sanchez Rodriques

Elisa Roe

The family of Marcella Sanchez

Herman Santillanes

Sharon Santillanes

Joe Schroeder

The family of Clara Stephenson

Edwina Trujillo

Harvey Vigil

Spanish Heritage! In honor of our congregation's Spanish heritage, and out of respect for the ongoing cultural diversity of New Mexico, we include Spanish elements in the Sunday Service. The worship service is recorded each week and edited onto a CD. There are free copies of recent services on the table in Fellowship Hall. Sermons may also be heard on our website: www.lasplacitaschurch.org/worship-at-lppc/sermons.

Hearing Assistance. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church offers a loop system for hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting. The worship service is broadcast directly through the hearing aid. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver and headset. Our public address system operates on a radio frequency which is transmitted to special assisted hearing devices that are available from the greeters or sound technician.

Online Giving. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church (LPPC) offers the convenience of donating online to support our ministries and missions. It is easy, safe, and secure. Thank you so much for your generosity and blessings! Simply go to www.lasplacitaschurch.org/give

CONTACT US

Church Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Phone: 505-867-5718

Matthew Baugh, Pastor: pastor@lasplacitaschurch.org

Karen Cox, Administrator: administrator@lasplacitaschurch.org

Karen Cox, Financial Secretary: finance@lasplacitaschurch.org

Elliot Smith, Choral Director: elliotsongsmith@gmail.com

Sara Moore, Web Manager: webmanager@lasplacitaschurch.org

Accompanist:

Mindy Sampson

Ruling Elders:

Class of 2026: Donna Ebers, Jacque Fletcher, Colleen Rust

Class of 2027: Lauren Mueller-Skinner, Carl Allen, Janice Langdale

Class of 2028: Steve Chewning, Judie Hendry, Mike Potter

Deacons:

Class of 2026: Martha Brown, Ivona McCrary, Eloise Sanchez

Class of 2027: Missy DeLara, Sue Hoff, Anna Howarth

Class of 2028: Katherine Gustafson, Kathy Peterson, Warren Peterson

Clerk of Session: Carl Allen

LAS PLACITAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Gather for conversation and food after the 10:30 am Service!



MISSION STATEMENT

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of all ages gathering for worship, prayer, learning, fellowship and spiritual growth. As members of the body of Christ, we celebrate God's grace in our lives and seek to extend God's love and promise through service, outreach, education, music, arts and witness. We are committed to peace and justice in the world, and to care for the earth as God's gift to humankind.

We cherish our origin as an early Spanish village mission church and honor this heritage in all of our activities.

We are Presbyterian in theology and governance, but welcome and support all people as they explore their personal life paths, emphasizing Christ's word, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

~Matthew 18:20

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

In 1882, José L. A. Gurulé, a descendant of settlers of Spain's 1768 San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant, invited Rev. José Ynés Perea, a native of Bernalillo and the first ordained Hispanic Presbyterian minister in the United States, to come to a meeting in Placitas. This led to holding monthly Presbyterian services.

On February 25, 1894, all 95 adults present at Sunday service led by Rev. James Menaul and Rev. Perea voted to organize the Presbyterian Church at Las Placitas. Presbyterian Churches began to be established in the New Mexico Territory starting with Santa Fe in 1867, and Placitas followed as the 35th church organized, 17th among those extant.

Early church services were held in the same one-room adobe house used from 1893 until 1900 as the Presbyterian Mission School. In 1913, the adobe house was renovated and a tower added for the bell purchased in 1894 from the San Felipe Pueblo. In 1930, a new church building was built in the same location, after razing the adobe house and reusing its bricks. In the early 1980s, an addition gave us the current sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall and a kitchen. Construction from August 2004 to May 2005 expanded the kitchen and added the administrative and educational wing.

P.O. Box 768, 7 Paseo de San Antonio, Placitas, NM 87043

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