

LAS PLACITAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Living Faith, Loving God and Welcoming All

December 23, 2025

Christmas Eve

Lessons and Carols

4:00 pm

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~

Hello WSPR poets, planning committee members, and volunteers,

What a lovely evening we had on Sunday! The chill of the winter night was more than offset by the beautiful imagery and the expressive and lyrical connections to the solstice and the earth. Each of you brought something unique and special to the event, whether it was poetry, hot spiced cider and cookies, gathering music, beautiful decorations, AV support, moderator talent, or parking support. Sincere thanks to all – it took all of us to make it so memorable!

The chapbook has been posted on the Las Placitas Presbyterian Church's website at the following link. Feel free to share this with friends and colleagues.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/6c/6c91e3a2-4b6b-4e99-bc24-23674d77e24b/documents/winter_solstice_chapbook_2025-final.pdf

A Zoom recording of the event will be posted on the Church's website in the near future. Considering the holidays, I'm not sure exactly when that will happen, but when it does I will send you a link.

Wishing all a beautiful holiday season, good health, and a happy and peaceful new year! Jacque

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.

LAS PLACITAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm

Lessons and Carols

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Matthew Baugh

LEADER: We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light;

PEOPLE: We have lived in darkness, but a light has shined on us.

LEADER: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us,

PEOPLE: He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

LEADER: He will rule with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

READER: For the past four weeks we have waited and prayed for the coming of Christ at Christmas. We have lit the Advent candles to prepare for the day of Christmas. First, we lit the candle of Hope (the first candle PURPLE is lighted). This reminds us that God gives us hope, even in the most difficult times.

READER: Next, we lighted the candle of Peace. (The second candle PURPLE is lighted.) This reminds that God gives us peace in our hearts and tells us to work for peace in the world.

READER: We lighted the third candle, which represents Joy. This tells us that we can rejoice in the good news of Christmas, for when we needed it most, God sent Jesus to help us. (The third candle, ROSE, is lighted).

READER: Finally we lighted the candle of Love, which reminds us of Jesus' two greatest teachings: that we love God with all our being, and that we love our neighbors as ourselves. (The fourth candle, PINK, is lighted).

READER: Now the waiting is over, the preparation has been done, and it is time to experience the fulfilled promise of God. As we light the final candle, we do so with hearts filled with hope, peace, joy, and love as we celebrate the birth of our savior. (The final candle WHITE is lighted)

*OPENING HYMN #826	“Lift High the Cross”	Glory to God
HYMN #133	“O Come All Ye Faithful”	Glory to God

all verses

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Matthew Baugh

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 8–15, 17–19

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

CAROL #138	“Who Would Think That What Was Needed?”	Glory to God
<i>verse 1</i>		

SECOND LESSON

Génesis 22:15-18

Y llamó el Ángel de Jehová a Abraham segunda vez desde el cielo, y dijo: Por mí mismo he jurado, dice Jehová, que por cuanto has hecho esto, y no me has rehusado tu hijo, tú único hijo; de cierto te bendeciré, y multiplicaré tu descendencia como las estrellas del cielo y como la arena que está a la orilla del mar; y tu descendencia poseerá las puertas de sus enemigos. En tu simiente serán benditas todas las naciones de la tierra, por cuanto obedeciste a mi voz.

CAROL #83	“¡Oh Ven! ¡Oh Ven Emmanuel!”	El Himnario
<i>verses 1 and 4</i>		

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time

onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL #129

“Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming”
verses 1 and 3

Glory to God

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

CAROL #93

“Oh, Aldehuela de Belén”
verses 1 and 4

El Himnario

FIFTH LESSON

Lucas 1:26-35

Al sexto mes, fue enviado de Dios el ángel Gabriel a una ciudad de Galilea, llamada Nazaret, a una virgen desposada con un hombre llamado José, descendiente de David; y el nombre de la virgen era María. Y entrando adonde ella estaba, dijo: ¡Salve, muy favorecida! El Señor está contigo. [Bendita tú entre las mujeres. Ella se turbó profundamente por estas palabras, y consideraba qué significaría este saludo. Y el ángel le dijo: Deja de temer, María, porque has hallado gracia ante Dios. Mira, concebirás en tu seno y darás a luz un hijo, y llamarás su nombre Jesús. Éste será grande y será llamado Hijo del Altísimo. El Señor Dios le dará el trono de su padre David, y reinará sobre la casa de Jacob para siempre; y su reino no tendrá fin. Entonces le dijo María al ángel: ¿Cómo será esto, puesto que no conozco varón? El ángel le respondió y le dijo: El Espíritu Santo vendrá sobre ti, y el poder del Altísimo te cubrirá con su sombra; por lo cual también lo santo que va a nacer será llamado Hijo de Dios.

CAROL #98

“To a Maid, Whose Name Was Mary”
verses 1, 2 and 6

Glory to God

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

verse 1

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8–16

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

verses 1 and 2

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL #151

“We Three Kings”

Glory to God

verses 1 and 5

NINETH LESSON

Juan 1: 1–14

En el principio era el Verbo, y el Verbo estaba con Dios, y el Verbo era Dios. Éste estaba en el principio junto a Dios. Todas las cosas por medio de él fueron hechas, y sin él nada de lo que ha sido hecho, fue hecho.

En él estaba la vida, y la vida era la luz de los hombres. La luz resplandece en las tinieblas, y las tinieblas no prevalecieron contra ella. Hubo un hombre enviado de parte de Dios, el cual se llamaba Juan. Éste vino para testimonio, para dar testimonio de la luz, a fin de que todos creyesen por él. No era él la luz, sino para dar testimonio de la luz.

El Verbo era la luz verdadera, que alumbra a todo hombre que viene a este mundo. Estaba en el mundo, y el mundo fue hecho por medio de él; pero el mundo no le conoció. Vino a lo que era suyo, y los suyos no le recibieron. Pero a todos los que le recibieron, a los que creen en su nombre, les dio potestad de ser hechos hijos de Dios; los cuales no han sido engendrados de sangre, ni de voluntad de carne, ni de voluntad de varón, sino de Dios. Y el Verbo se hizo carne, y habitó entre nosotros (y vimos su gloria, gloria como del unigénito del Padre), lleno de gracia y de verdad.

CAROL #134

“Joy to the World”

Glory to God

all verses

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Go Tell the News”

Choir

REFLECTION

“One Solitary Life”

Rev. Matthew Baugh

(The lights are dimmed and, as we sing the closing hymn, we pass the light through the church until all the candles are lighted.)

HYMN #122

“Silent Night”

Glory to God

(first verse en español)

Noche de paz, noche de amor

Todo duerme alrededor

Entre los astros que esparcen su luz

Bella anunciando al niño Jesús

Brilla la estrella de paz

Brilla la estrella de amor

BENEDICTION

Rev. Matthew Baugh

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

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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: Ruth Allen, 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.

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