



**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

**Good Morning and Welcome to  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



DISCIPLES  
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

***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.***

**Reach Up. Reach Out. Reach In.**

## PRELUDE

Aletta Wilson

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Stefford-Grey

ONE: Children of God, when we face  
strife, upset, and harm in our midst,  
we so often turn to God and ask:

**ALL: How many times should I forgive?**

ONE: When Jesus answers that we should forgive  
again and again and again,  
we are tempted to repeat the question:

**ALL: How many times should I forgive?**

ONE: Until God turns the question around:  
“How many times have I forgiven you?”

**ALL: Seventy times seven.**

ONE: “How many times have I loved you?”

**ALL: Seventy times seven.**

ONE: “How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

**ALL: Seventy times seven.**

ONE: Let us learn, then, how to forgive  
not out of our own power, but out of God's,  
who forgives us that we might be free  
to learn to live with one another well.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**Chalice Hymnal, #540**

### **O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go**

**Verses 1 & 3**

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

## **UNISON PRAYER**

**Sue Stefford-Grey**

God of love,  
take hold of us in this act of worship,  
and do not let us go until we have been blessed by a vision of love,  
infinitely generous, gentle and forgiving;  
simple, wholesome, mysterious, profound;  
in which all are accepted and no one rejected;  
love that never ends.  
Living God, Love itself,  
live in our hearts now and forever. Amen.

## **PASS THE PEACE**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Melody Burns**

**Rainbow Bridge (The Angels Are Crying)**

## **HYMN OF GRATITUDE**

**Chalice Hymnal #649**

### **Give Thanks for Life**

**Verse 1**

Give thanks for life,  
The measure of our days,  
Mortal, we pass through  
Beauty that decays,  
Yet sing to God our hope,  
Our love, our praise,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE**

**Paul Cook**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Denali Wilson**

**READING**

**Matthew 18:21–35**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Chalice Hymnal #518**

**This is a Day of New Beginnings**

**Verses 2 & 4**

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference,  
As faith and hope are born again.

In faith we gather round the table  
To taste and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
Our God is making all things new.

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Kamy McKenzie-Shaw**

**PRAYERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rev. Patrick Crocker**

**GOING FORTH HYMN**

**Chalice Hymnal #477**

**Pass It On**

**Verses 1 & 3**

It only takes a spark  
To get a fire going,  
And soon all those around  
Can warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love,  
Once you've experienced it:  
You spread God's love to everyone,  
You want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend,  
This happiness that I've found—  
On God you can depend,  
It matters not where you're bound;  
I'll shout it from the mountain top,  
I want my world to know:  
The Lord of love has come to me,  
I want to pass it on.

**POSTLUDE**

**Aletta Wilson**

## **UPCOMING SERVICES**

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

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**September 24, 2023**

**Worship Leader:**

Kamy McKenzy-Shaw

**Offering:**

Rev. Patrick Crocker

**Communion:**

Paul Cook

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**October 1, 2023**

**Worship Leader:**

Zanté Garcia

**Offering:**

Deb Cook

**Communion:**

Rev. Patrick Crocker

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**October 8, 2023**

**Worship Leader:**

Melody Burns

**Offering:**

Scott Hays-Strom

**Communion:**

Deb Cook

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**October 15, 2023**

**Worship Leader:**

Deb Cook

**Offering:**

Sandy Weber

**Communion:**

Scott Hays-Strom

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**October 22, 2023**

**Worship Leader:**

Debby Johnson

**Offering:**

Melissa McKenzy-Shaw

**Communion:**

Sandy Weber

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**October 29, 2023**

**Worship Leader:**

Hilda McKeey

**Offering:**

Paul Cook

**Communion:**

Melissa McKenzy-Shaw

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**Global Ministries is supported by both DOC and UCC.**

For more information, visit [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org).

*If you are visiting us today, we welcome you!*

*Please come worship with us again!*

## **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.

### **WEEKLY EVENTS**

- Sun.10:15 am**    Worship Service \*  
**Thu.9:00 am**    Spiritual Practices  
**Thu.3:00 pm**    Book Discussion (biweekly)

*\* Our Hybrid Worship Service is held in-person at the church, and live-streamed via [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Live](#).*

### **MONTHLY EVENTS**

- First Sun.    6:30 pm**    Contemplative Worship  
**First Wed.    6:30 pm**    Crafter's Group

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**First Christian Church**  
**1809 El Paseo Rd.**  
**Las Cruces, NM 88001**

**Office:** (575) 524-3245  
**Email:** [office@fcclc.org](mailto:office@fcclc.org)

**Visit Us Online:**  
**Website:** [www.fcclc.org](http://www.fcclc.org)  
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**For Text Alerts:**  
Msg **FCCTextMe** to **(844) 467-1299**