



**Presbytery Worship
June 17th, 2023
First Presbyterian Church of Belén**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Donna Winters, Organist, Belén First

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Quass, Pastor, At-Large

One: We gather this day, and much is visible:

All: Our smiles may show our joy; our eyes may speak of pain.

One: We come to this place, seeking signs of the living God:

All: We may sense something holy here; we may reach out to mystery.

One: Will we see God today? Will our living make God's love visible?

All: Let us worship God, Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.

HYMN #314

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Roger Scott Powers, Pastor, At-Large

One: "Confession is a stripping away of protection, the telling of a truth which might once have seemed like a humiliation, become suddenly a gateway, an entrance to solid ground; even a first step home. To confess is to free oneself, not only by admitting a sin...but to profess a deeper allegiance, a greater dedication to something

beyond the mere threat of immediate punishment or the desolation of being shunned. To confess is to declare oneself ready for a more courageous road..." (David Whyte)

Friends, siblings in Christ, Beloved of God, let us confess together, so that we might be free to walk the more courageous road of Love.

All: Gracious God, your love is greater than anything we can imagine. Yet, we are quick to run to other loves and forget about you. Forgive us for turning away from you, time and time again. Help us to not only remember your relentless love for us, but take it into the fibers of our very beings. And then give us the depth, strength, and courage to love others with that same love, and to do it well.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Dear ones, we are God's beloved! Not because we've earned it by our goodness or smartness, our wealth or health, our skin color, gender identity, political party, religion, or anything else. Nor have we forfeited it by our drug use or abuse, our number of piercings or partners, our lack of money, education, or faith, or anything else. We are God's beloved because Love is who God is and Love is what God does. Trusting this, join with me in claiming and proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel:

All: Through Jesus Christ, we are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved. Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: As people who are accepted, forgiven, and loved by God, may we also experience God's peace. May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(The people may exchange with one another, in words and gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

"I Feel the Spirit"
Traditional Spiritual, Price/Besig

Belén First Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Judy Wellington, Pastor, At-Large

SCRIPTURE

John 13:33-35

First Nations Translation

"My little children," [Creator Sets Free/Jesus] said to them, "my time with you is almost gone. You will look for me, but where I am going you cannot follow. This is the same thing I said to the other Tribal Members and I now say to you." *His followers lifted their heads up and looked into the face of their Wisdomkeeper.* "I am giving you a new road to walk," he said. "In the same way I have loved you, you are to love each other. This kind of love will be the sign for all people that you are walking the road with me."

SCRIPTURE

John 13:33-35

Guillermo, Pastor, Camino de Vida

"Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new

commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

LECTURA

Juan 13:33-35

Guillermo, Pastor, Camino de Vida

Hijos míos, ya no estaré con ustedes mucho tiempo. Ustedes me buscarán, pero lo mismo que les dije a los judíos les digo ahora a ustedes: No podrán ir a donde yo voy. Les doy este mandamiento nuevo: Que se amen los unos a los otros. Así como yo los amo a ustedes, así deben amarse ustedes los unos a los otros. Si se aman los unos a los otros, todo el mundo se dará cuenta de que son discípulos míos.

SERMON

“How Can You Tell?”

Rev. Jerry Kuyk, Pastor, Belén First

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #300

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

OFFERING

Ruth Mandernach, Elder, Belén First

*The offering from this service will go to the NM Ramp Project.
(Checks written to Presbytery of Santa Fe or give online at santafepresbytery.org)*

OFFERTORY

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Gives Thanks”
Fishel

Belén First Choir

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ruth Mandernach, Elder, Belén First

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Brett Mitchell, Pastor, ABQ La Mesa

SENDING

HYMN #529

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Jerry Kuyk, Pastor, Belén First

POSTLUDE

Donna Winters, Organist, Belén First

Liturgy developed by Deb Church.

Musicians: Donna Winters, Mike Fry-Shaw, Belén First Choir.