**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, February 3, 2019, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Hymns:**

**RH 371 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know Marjorie McKenzie, Accompanist**

**RH 108 God of Our Life, Through All Our Circling Years**

**RH 265 Sing Them Over Again To Me**

**Call to Worship (please see bulletin)**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Call to Confession**In all honesty and humility,
let us confess our sins before God
and be freed of the burdens that weigh us down for the journey ahead.

**Confession (please see bulletin)**

**Assurance of Pardon**In the name of Jesus Christ,
I announce to you that our sins are forgiven.
**Alleluia! Amen.**

Friends, Believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Psalm 71:1-6 (please see bulletin)**

**Time Out for Teaching:** **Mission 2.0**

I call this time “Mission 2.0” because I think this is a good time of year for us to review the mission projects and programs we have in our congregation. I would like to begin today with thinking about the Ronald McDonald House. Who would like to describe it for everyone else here, in your own words?

Ronald McDonald houses can found all around the U.S. There is one in Albuquerque and there is one in Amarillo. They provide low-cost to free housing to families whose children must be hospitalized, usually for the long-term. This help provides relief to everyone in the family and it is ultimately the best for the child to be near his or her parents.

From a practical standpoint, it looks good for everyone to have this program. From a Biblical standpoint, what does this remind you of? Mary and Joseph looking for a safe place to stay while they have their child? The time-honored Scriptural value of radical hospitality?

What do we do to participate in Ronald McDonald House? We give our support by the pop tab collection program. They can get money for recycling our pop tabs.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God,

you knew us before we knew ourselves.

You consecrate us even now to be your servants.

Create in us hearts worthy to be your prophets

that we might go where you send us,

and speak the Word that you give us.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit,

place your words upon our lips

and your grace upon our hearts

so that we might pluck up and pull down,

destroy and overthrow,

build and plant,

as you, alone, have commanded. Amen.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

1If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Gospel Luke 4:21-30**

**16**When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

**18**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
    because he has anointed me
        to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
    and recovery of sight to the blind,
        to let the oppressed go free,
**19**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**20**And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" 24And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. 25But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**Sermon:**

It’s not easy being a follower of Jesus. Because Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and He’s just not all that popular with the in-crowds. Our reading today from Luke finds Jesus in his hometown. He is probably still wet behind the ears from his baptism, which happened earlier in this chapter. And, according to Luke’s account, word about him spread around Galilee, so by the time he arrived at his hometown synagogue, they probably expected him to be their hometown hero.

But he doesn’t behave like the hometown hero they expected. Because He is Jesus, none other than God’s Son. And because of who He is, Jesus does what Jesus does, to speak the truth to the world. But unlike Jesus, who makes truth-telling look easy, for us, it can be downright terrifying. Especially if the truth can get you killed.

Jesus says in John 8:31-32, “‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” So, Jesus means here that we find a certain freedom from knowing the truth and it comes from abiding in God’s Word. In other words, by holding ourselves to the light of God’s Word, we find freedom. If we really abide in his Word – and that means becoming knowledgeable about what God says to us – then we too are free to begin speaking the truth in love.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian people on the same topic of speaking out of love. Written to a church having trouble finding God’s love in their hearts for each other, Paul tells them that while they may have many spiritual gifts – love is the greatest of all, the one we all must seek out. He tells them that no matter what else they do in life, to make God’s love the foundational value, the factor in all things they choose, the greatest gift they must seek out and share. Love is the point around which all our lives should pivot, how we decide the way a worship service goes, how we welcome guests, how we approach new mission projects, how we plan something with one another to include all in the church who wish to participate. Love and the truth are our tools for discerning and even fine-tuning the way we serve God’s Church. They fine tune our focus on how we treat God’s world, all God’s creatures, and how we also look at ourselves.

So, if speaking the truth is our calling and to love is our calling, then they must go together. It is the best way to be, to be hometown heroes to the church we serve.

It’s not easy being a hometown hero, even if serving in the church that raised us. Especially if you feel the Holy Spirit has placed a conviction in your heart about something and not everyone is ready to hear what you have to say. As we can see, speaking the truth, even out of love, even when deeply and well-steeped in our knowledge of God’s Word as Jesus did today in his hometown, can make us unpopular.

But it has to be told. It has to be told if we are to continue to share that message of Great Joy. If we are to declare that there is good news for the blind, for the captive, for the lonely. It has to be told because there are still so many who do not believe that there is freedom in belonging to God. For all of us, whether we are involved in the ordered offices of our church such as elders and deacons, or whether we have become informally involved, we all have that opportunity. To speak the truth in love. To equip ourselves for doing so by growing in our knowledge of God’s Word.

 Jesus gets away from the angry mob and deftly slips away from them. He isn’t always that lucky nor are we. But the good news is we have the tools to help us with this great opportunity to share the truth about Jesus. The truth can be filled with the necessary ingredient of love. If you are already doing this, then you a step ahead of the crowds. Amen.

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Invitation, Words of Institution**

Friends, this table does not belong to the Presbyterian Church;

It is the table of our Lord, who shared his last meal with his disciples, including the one who would betray him.

His welcome is never ending, so long as you seek Him out. Here is where you can find the real presence of our Lord who loves us so, who offers us mercy and strength,

As the nourishing presence of God that sustains us through all times of joy and sorrow.

We give thanks to God that the Lord Jesus,
on the night before he died, took bread,
and after giving thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, The Lord’s Prayer**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

…Together, with all of creation, we sing your majesty:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You blessed us with the promise of abundance and grace
if only we lived within the bounds of your mercy.
But we pushed those boundaries and neglected your earth,
mistreating one another and failing to care for creation.
So you sent your Son, Jesus Christ,
to redeem us for we were unable to redeem ourselves.
In the flesh he came among us and preached the Gospel
not only in word but in deed.

We gather this day, God of all majesty and power,
to lift up your holy name and proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Giver of Every Mercy,
send us the presence of your Spirit
that she might bless us in this holy meal,
sending us forth into the world
to be both hearers and doers of your Word.
Unite us this day with our sisters and brothers around the world
as we preach the Gospel and grow in our understanding of discipleship.

We pray through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
who prays with us as we say together:
**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Prayer after Communion**