**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**

*The Church With the Holy Spirit Window*

**January 16, 2022 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Rev. Amy Pospichal, Pastor Marjorie G. McKenzie, Accompanist

**RH 100 All Creatures of Our God and King 1-4**

**RH 298 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak all**

**BH 322 Spirit of the Living God (Prayer for Illumination)**

**RH 435 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord 1-4**

**Call to Worship**

God has called us together to worship and work  
**young and old, men and women, newcomer and charter member.**  
God has called us together to love and to serve  
**introverts and extroverts, leaders and followers.**  
God has called us together to teach and to learn  
**faithful and doubting, hopeful and despairing, wise and foolish.**  
God has called us together to praise and to pray  
**singer and speaker and hearer, healer and in need of healing.**  
God has called us together to be the church  
**and we are filled with gifts to be God’s people!**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the beautiful day you’ve given us. Thank you for the gift of your people who are beautiful inside and out, for you make us in your image. We thank you for this place of worship, for filling it with your power and grace. Let our worship today aptly speak of your glory and love! Through Christ our Savior, amen.

**Call to Confession**

So often we rely on our own understanding, our own faithfulness, our own desire. But if we believe that to be enough, we deceive only ourselves. Before God, and with the people of God, let us confess our need for forgiveness and guidance. Let us pray.

**Confession (Responsive)**Loving God, the world is full to the brim with your grace,  
**yet so often we see only what we do not have.**

~silence~

Joyful God, you call us to glorify and enjoy you forever,  
**yet so often we insist that faith must be cut and dried, strait-laced, and serious.**

~silence~

Calling God, you ask for obedience to your will,  
**yet so often we prefer our own way to yours.**

~silence~

Forgive our faltering faith, O God.  
**Soften our hard hearts, unclench our grasping hands, and open our darkened eyes, that we may follow you into kingdom life. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who makes all things new.   Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**Beloved in Christ, believe in the good news.

For God’s love is made manifest in our flesh.

God’s love has been poured over us with

wisdom and understanding.

Friends, in the name of the Jesus Christ, you and I are forgiven!  
**We belong to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

**Psalm 36:5-10**

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

your faithfulness to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,**

**your judgments are like the great deep;**

you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

**How precious is your steadfast love, O God!**

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house,**

**and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

**O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,**

**and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

**Prayers of the People**

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
and your faithfulness soars over us like the clouds.  
We call on your righteousness, strong as a mountain,  
and your justice, deep as the ocean;  
for humans and all that lives on the earth,  
we call out for mercy.

Your love is immeasurable,  
and we lift up all your people who seek to know you.  
Gather us under the shadow of your wings  
and unite us with each other by your grace.

We pray for those who count themselves excluded from life’s good things,  
that they might feast upon the abundance of your house.  
We pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness or healing,  
that you would give them drink from the river of your delights.  
We pray for those whose lives are in danger or at an end,  
for with you is the well of life.

In your light let us see light,  
and in your loving-kindness let us make you known;  
we pray in the name of your Christ, saying together:

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Offering**

**Prayer for Illumination BH 322 Spirit of the Living God**

**Time out for Teaching: “Calling Cards”**

Think for just a moment. What are you good at? It’s okay. Boast for just a moment. But let everyone have a chance. What are you good at?

Is it a task, a thing you do? Are you good at helping people? At cookies? At listening to someone’s problems? What are you good at? Are you good at organizing a meeting? An event? Decorate a cake? Paint a building?

God has left us “calling cards” – ideas as to where God has been in our hearts. These ideas come out in various ways. One of those is the realization that we have been given talents and gifts to help us serve God in ways greater than just serving ourselves.

So, whenever you think about what you are good at doing, remember that you are good at it because God gave you that special skill. And God would like you to use that skill to make God’s world a better place. How can you do that? Give someone a gift. Do someone a favor. Or, help people at church in some special ways. Lighting the candles is a very special gift. Picking up our offerings is a special way to serve our God.

**Isaiah 62:1-5**

1For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.

2The nations shall see your vindication,

and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name

that the mouth of the LORD will give.

3You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,

and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

4You shall no more be termed Forsaken,

and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;

but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,

and your land Married;

for the LORD delights in you,

and your land shall be married.

5For as a young man marries a young woman,

so shall your builder marry you,

and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,

so shall your God rejoice over you.

**Gospel John 2:1-11**

1On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come" 5His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

1Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. 3Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

4Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

**Sermon Tis a Gift to be Simple Rev. Amy Pospichal**

“'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.”

This morning’s reading from 1 Corinthians brings to mind wonderful early American folk tune, “Tis a Gift to be Simple.” It was a relatively unknown tune until it was popularized by Aaron Copeland’s 1944 classical piece, “Appalachian Spring.” “’Tis a Gift to Be Simple” was written by Joseph Brackett, who belonged to the “United Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing.” We know them as the Shakers.

Shakers are known for several things. Their beautiful and high-quality woodworking. The fact that their way of life has nearly died out. They were related to the “Quakers,” the Puritan group known for their pacifism and quiet, contemplative ways of worship. The Shakers broke away from the Quakers in the 1700s and became an even quieter, more closed off society. They opposed marriage and promoted celibacy. In the cold winter months, they welcomed the homeless and hungry, who became temporary converts till the weather became better. They believed in growing their community by converting people to their faith. But, by the sheer fact that they seemed only to attract “fair weather friends,” and that they practiced celibacy, the Shakers dwindled from several hundred believers to just a few people.

The Shakers left a legacy of simplicity and elegance without ostentatious ornamentation. A good chair was simply that. A chair with simple grace, basic finishing, well-made to last 1,000 years of peace. They expected Jesus to come back and reign over all of Creation at that time. They made simple ladder back chairs, chests of drawers with hand-turned wooden knobs. Their furniture is practical and beautiful. Sometimes they painted or stained, but it was never flashy and always functional. Today, if you have several thousand dollars, you might be able to fetch an antique Shaker rocking chair. I wonder what these simple and imaginative people would think to see their furniture sold for so much money?

They also understood that while it was a gift to be simple and pure, they also knew that no one was perfect, even the most gifted woodworker. Says a writer Woody Woodburn, “I recently learned that the Shakers, renowned for their furniture design and craftsmanship, had their own vaccine for Type-A perfectionism – they deliberately introduced a ‘mistake’ into the things they made in order to show that man should not aspire to the perfection of God. Flawed, they believed, could be ideal.” The Navajo too, have been known for leaving a mistake in their works. They do this on purpose, called a “spirit release,” as an acknowledgement to the Great Spirit that only God is perfect.

So, “Tis a gift to be simple. Tis a gift to be free. 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be. And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.”

Simplicity is a good thing. We Presbyterians find a way to deal with complicated problems in a couple of ways. One is just finding some humor in a situation. Another is getting tensed up and worried about what we cannot fix or control, and trying to shore up our own mistakes. Another way could be – form a committee! Sometimes we just have to have an attitude adjustment. Paul the Apostle is trying to explain to the poor Corinthians. The are having some serious hang ups about who gets to do what, and how to treat one another. There was also the serious disease of “pride” and “one-upmanship” among them. Some thought they were better than others, based on their worldly assessments of intelligence, education and who had the power to speak in tongues. There was a battle going on in the church over authority and ethics. I imagine that their church was full of stress and unnecessary fears.

We can hear in Paul’s words to them that it was not pure. It was a messy situation. So, reminds them of where they all came from, and then to keep it simple. Let God’s Spirit show them that all of their special knowledge, the intelligence and even their authority in the church are because of God’s authority to give these gifts to them in the first place. However, Paul says, these gift are not meant to control and offend. These gifts of intelligence, of speaking in tongues, of organizing – all the gifts we have are meant for good things. We are like the superheroes who are told that the powers we have are to be only used for good.

The Corinthian church was a highly diverse church with many kinds of outside influences. It struggled with a sense of “purity,” you might say. The outside influences were getting in the way of living the true and simple life in Jesus Christ.

He wants them to keep it simple. Remember that the Holy Spirit has already given them gifts, to build up each other and the church. The gifts we’ve been given are filled with grace. But because they are God’s gift to us, they are full of grace. Maybe there is something that we can learn from the Shakers and the Corinthians. Humility, as we simply and powerfully co-create – guided by God’s Holy Spirit – a kingdom in which we use our special powers to the fullest. Amen.

**\*Benediction**

**Prayer Requests:**

Amy (Glenna Gray’s daughter) chronic medical issues  
Betty (Alzheimer’s) and Dolores (paralyzed) – Glenda’s sisters  
Elmer Schuster - leg pain

Fay Birch – stage 4 cancer   
Glenda Coles – awaiting shoulder surgery (January 17th)  
Jenna Morris – moved to Clovis for her new job  
Lucy Jasper – Alzheimers/Dementia  
Misty Tompkins and her family – stiff person syndrome, seeking experimental program

People seeking jobs, and people seeking employees  
Ruth Johnson – for general health  
Sarah Hittson's daughter Marie - surgery  
Schools, students, teachers and families  
Sharon and Wayne Huffman – general health  
Shay – Julie Sursa’s daughter

Susie – still seeking a car, planning for EMS school  
Tommy Morris – for health and strength  
Travelers  
All those suffering from COVID19

[**https://www.mortiseandtenonmag.com/blogs/blog/the-misrepresentation-of-shaker-furniture**](https://www.mortiseandtenonmag.com/blogs/blog/the-misrepresentation-of-shaker-furniture)

**Announcements:**

**Bible Study** continues on Wednesday at 5:15PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin by looking at the Sunday lectionary texts and discussing the themes for upcoming Sunday message. Maybe you have something to teach the pastor!

**Potluck is this Sunday after worship.**  Please stay after to enjoy some fellowship time.