**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, July 7, 2019, Fourteen Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Hymns: Nancy Mueller, Accompanist**

**BH 181 Come Sing to God**

**BH 84 In The Cross of Christ I Glory**

**BH 302 I Danced in the Morning**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

We enter into your presence, mighty God, thankful for your constant love.

Enable our worship today to be one of Spirit and truth.

Empower us to hear your Word and Abide in you

Strengthen us in faith as your holy people,

For we need your power to do your will.

Guide and keep all who feel apart from you,

So as we worship, the whole world may find you again.

Amen.

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession (please see bulletin)**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, Believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Psalm 30:1-12 (please see bulletin)**

**Time Out For Teaching: Meet Galatians**

**Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16**

1My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. 2Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. 4All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. 5For all must carry their own loads.

6Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

7Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. 8If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. 10So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

11See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! 12It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised-only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. 14May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! 16As for those who will follow this rule-peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

**Prayer for Illumination**

God, you have come to us again and again,

Calling us to listen

And follow you.

We face many fearful things in this life

And you continue to bear us up

Like on eagles’ wings.

Bear us up again

With the strength and staff of your holy Word.

Amen.

**Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

1After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. 2He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. 4Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. 5Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' 6And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. 7Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. 8Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; 9cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say,11'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

16"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

17The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" 18He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. 19See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. 20Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

**2 Kings 5:1-14**

1Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. 2Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. 5And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. 6He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

8But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." 9So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. 10Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." 11But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! 12Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. 13But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" 14So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

**Sermon: Take the Plunge!**

Do you remember the old commercials for Nestea iced tea? The family is having a cookout and the neighbors are coming over. Dad is standing at the grill and he’s getting too hot! So he drinks a glass of Nestea Iced Tea. A big smile comes over his face. And then, in a moment of fantasy, you get a bird’s eye view of him, still holding his iced tea in his hand, falling backwards into a sparkling blue swimming pool. That’s before computer graphics, so the actors really had to fall into a swimming pool for the shot. As a kid, I thought it was hilarious, because pushing people into pools was funny to me. (I don’t actually do that anymore!)

As funny as it is, the idea was to convey the total fulfillment, that completely refreshing experience of drinking that iced tea. Nestea is supposed to be so satisfying, it is like falling backwards, letting go, and taking a plunge, and finding out that it was worth it.

This wonderful story of the Old Testament speaks of Naaman, Commander of the Aramean army, who suffered from leprosy. A servant in his household, who was from the conquered nation of Israel, knew of the prophet Elisha who could heal Naaman. So, they sent a letter to the King in Northern Israel (Samaria), asking for healing from the King there, along with many impressive gifts and money to pay his way. The Israelite King seems to think he’s supposed to heal Naaman, but declares, “I can’t do that!” But Elisha hears and calls, “Send him to me.”

Elisha is a powerful and wise prophet, the successor to Elijah. He doesn’t even have to come out and meet Naaman to perform some special rituals at the riverside. God is powerful enough that Elisha just sends Naaman instructions. Wash seven times in the Jordan River and that’s it. All Naaman has to do is take the plunge and trust the instructions. But instead he becomes angry. It sounds way too easy. He brought all of this gold and money to help pay for the healing and this is all that’s needed? That sounds ridiculous. He’s a very important man in his country and the least that Elisha could do is show up and do something more. But with the God of Israel, things don’t have to be difficult. All one needs to do is trust the words of the prophet as the word of God. Take the plunge, seven sacred times.

God often just wants us to take the plunge too. Life sends us many problems and some of them have difficult solutions. When manage to trust God, especially in the midst of the hard things of life, we may find it as refreshing as a falling into a cool pool on a hot day. That’s grace.

Naaman was about to learn about the grace of the God of Israel. Naaman expected rituals in order to see results. But this was a new thing for him. To see results with very little human involvement. He was surprised to think that God would heal him directly if he just trusted the instructions given him. He had to get over the trust issue in order to fall back into grace. He had to listen to the wisdom of his servants before he realized the error of his ways. “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

The great Naaman needed the common sense of his servants when he himself needed healing. If God wanted you to do something difficult in order to be free, would you have? And if God wants you do something easier than you expected, there is no reason why you shouldn’t. Take the plunge and discover the refreshment of belonging to Him fully. It is both easy and difficult. The difficult part is believing how easy it can be to belong to Him. But once we fall into His arms, we learn how much love he has for us.

It’s a lot like Paul’s message for the Galatians. He is worried for them that the message of God’s salvation has become warped for them. They had become convinced that in order for God to love them and give them salvation, they needed to be circumcised. Paul calls them “foolish,” for it’s not necessary. Paul says they don’t have to perform an ancient custom, when God’s grace was already made plain to them in the gift of Jesus Christ. It’s not a matter of what they do as much as just believing. In other words, Paul says, their salvation is not from their own doing. It is all God’s doing. And God only asks for their faith, not works. Take the plunge and trust God. God is asking us to not do something difficult but something simple.

Two kinds of healing took place on that day with Naaman. One was the physical healing. The other was a spiritual healing that came from putting his trust in the Lord of the Universe. The greater healing, greater than the leprosy itself, was learning to trust the advice of others and God.

So, what keeps you from trusting the Lord more? Let that become your journey to healing and freedom. All we’re asked to do is answer that call. Amen.

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

They will come from east and west,

And from north and south,

And sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,

When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,

He took the bread, and blessed and broke it,

And gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord’s table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him

To share the feast which he has prepared.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

We give you thanks, O Lord of hosts,  
for you have gathered us into your presence  
and made our hearts and souls rejoice in your dwelling place!  
You created a place for even the lowliest creature,  
and you revealed the beauty of your holiness  
in the lightness of birdsong and the thunder of the ocean.

In your faithful love, you made your dwelling in our homes  
by taking on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.  
He declared your name and shared your strength.  
He journeyed all along the way,  
pouring out blessings on all  
and tirelessly doing the work of the kingdom.  
For the sake of the One who died, rose again, and ascended on high,  
we sing our praises to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, Lord God of hosts,  
for you hear the prayers of your people.  
You pour out your Holy Spirit on your church  
and you send forth your care for all who are in need.  
Through the gift of this meal,  
you gather our spirits into your dwelling place,  
and you seat us at your eternal table.  
Your grace and your glory are eternal, O Lord,  
and we joyfully receive your blessings.  
We pray in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray, saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Distribution of the Elements**

Because there is one loaf,

We, many as we are, are one body;

For it is one loaf of which we all partake.

When we break the bread,

Is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup,

Is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God,

You have gathered us at the table

With all the company of your people

In heaven and on earth.

In your mercy we have been nourished

By the living bread, Jesus Christ,

And we have been refreshed

By the power of your Holy Spirit.

May we, who have shared this holy meal,

Go out as glad disciples of our Lord,

Following in his way,

Proclaiming his truth,

And living his love for the world.

Amen.

**Announcements** Attention Elders! Our next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9th at noon.