**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, June 10, 2018, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

**Hymns:**

**RH 416 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**

**RH 311 Savior! Thy Dying Love**

**RH 139 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

Lord Christ your grace is evident all around

Out of your Love you made this world and called it good.

Out of your Love you made us in your image

Out of your Love we know Jesus in our brokenness

And because of your Love we learn forgiveness.

We praise you, God!

For you promise to make all things new.

We celebrate you, Holy Spirit!

Amen!

**Invitation to Confession**

God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and God’s mercy endures to all generations. When we confess our brokenness, God’s grace offers us a glimpse of healing. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, let us confess with open and honest hearts our failure to live up to God’s call. Let us pray.

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

In the beginning, God breathed life into being, and every morning God’s mercies are new. Know that you, child of God, made in God’s image, are forgiven, loved and free. Believe and live the good news:  
**God’s goodness is planted more deeply than all that is wrong. Thanks be to God!**

Friends, Believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Psalm 138 (please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

We praise you, O Lord, for your greatness and splendor;  
we rejoice in you for the beauty and delight of your presence.  
Your goodness flows abundantly in the life of the world,  
and you provide enough  
not only to sustain life  
but to make living a delight.  
We pray for all that lives,  
and especially today for those creatures  
whose lives are filled with suffering or uncertainty  
because they cannot find enough  
food, shelter, security, love, or hope.  
Guide us as we seek to use the gifts you have given us,  
and open us to see what wonders you can work in the world through us.  
We pray for those who hunger for signs of your love  
and who thirst for the gladness of your good news.  
Make us vessels of your mercy  
and servants at your welcome table,  
so we might make room for everyone to find a home in you.  
We pray as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who teaches us to pray, saying:

The Lord’s Prayer

**Time out for Teaching: A New Heaven and a New Earth**

I have a sneaking suspicion of our gospel reading this morning. That Jesus is pointing the way to a new heaven and a new earth. [read it to the group]

When we study a piece of Scripture, it is helpful to break it down into parts. This reading is comprised of two shorter teachings and connecting them is a shorter saying.

First, we are told Jesus’ family is there because of rumors about Jesus casting out demons in the name of Beelzebul. For whatever reason, they come to restrain him. He uses this as a teaching moment about how if he were doing this in the name of the Prince of the Underworld, then he would be unable to, for it would be a house divided.

Then he is informed again that his family is outside. The family who is trying to stop him from doing his ministry. And he uses this as a teaching moment too. His family, he says, is those who do the will of God.

Jesus is showing us that the Kingdom of God is not just like a regular family.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**1 Samuel 8:4–11, 16–20**

8:4Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” 6But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, 7and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. 9Now then, listen to their voice; only — you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

10So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. 11He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots:… 

16He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. 17He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

19But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, 20so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

**2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1**

4:13But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture — “I believed, and so I spoke” — we also believe, and so we speak, 14because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. 15Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

16So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5:1For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**Mark 3:20–35**

20... and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” 22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” 23And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

28“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — 30for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

31Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” 33And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

**Sermon: The House of Tomorrow**

In my opinion, some of the funniest cartoons were made in the 1950s, animated by Tex Avery. He did a series of 9 minute cartoons about what the future would look like: “The House of Tomorrow,” “The Car of Tomorrow” and “The TV of Tomorrow”. These cartoons with their madcap sense of humor would poke fun at our human tendency to bend technology to our wishes. It announces, “The home of tomorrow will be built around the television set,” and it shows a man taking a bath, someone shaving, children on their beds, the woman in the kitchen, and everything else their doing, all of them with their necks craned over to watch a television set in the center. He also introduces a tiny TV set on the side of a person’s cigarette lighter, not unlike our being able to watch TV on our telephones. How prescient of Tex Avery.

His cartoons about the future seem eerily visionary. And, although they poke fun at human behavior, he also astutely observes how families of the future use objects in the home to unite each other or avoid each other!

Our readings this morning all deal with aspects of belonging to the family of God. Jesus has already told us who his family is - those who do the will of His Father. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians points out that we have a heavenly shelter with God, even if our earthly tent (that is, our bodies) is destroyed. Even if our entire lives are destroyed, we can trust God to be our home.

But the reading from Mark tells us an awful lot more about a controversy. It begins with accusations against Jesus, and because of those accusations, Jesus’ family trying to restrain Jesus from doing his ministry. Jesus has been accused of casting out demons in the name of Beelzebul, who is the Lord of the Underworld. As usual, Jesus takes the criticism well by giving them the lesson that Beelzebul cannot cast out Beelzebul’s own demons. It leads us all to assume that it must be someone more powerful even than Beelzebul. Then, a strange thing happens. Someone tells Jesus that his blood relatives are here, calling to see him. And he chooses to not go out to greet them, prefers to stay with those who have formed a circle around him, and he calls **them** his mother, brothers and sisters. For a moment, we have this image of God “cleaning house” by getting rid of demons. We have this idea that God is tying up the Strong Man in order to take back what belongs to God. We now, seeing this talk about Beelzebul and then “who are my mother and brothers?” God is getting His house in order, to bring a New Order to God’s Creation. And this circle of devoted students around him is not a clique, not a secret society. This circle is the seed of a new heaven and the new earth. A House of Tomorrow being built.

Home is where the will of God is done. And it means that God’s will could be done anywhere. I like to think that way when I run into you at the grocery store and we greet each other warmly. For we’re not just acquaintances. We’re family. I like to feel that way when I come to your home and visit a bit. Home, God’s home, happens anywhere we do His will, which means it can also happen everywhere. God wants us to create His home everywhere, in order to bring together and unite the whole human family in His name.

We can see glimpses of that House of Tomorrow in other ways, even when we get involved with non-church organizations to bring healing to others. When we collaborate our resources and spirits to do acts of healing with other groups. When we work with the Domestic Violence Program to assist a refugee with a hotel room or a tank of gas to get freedom from her abuser. Or like last weekend when the Health Council collaborated with Paws and Claws to take shelter dogs for a walk at Dunn Park, to cross-promote physical fitness through walking and highlighting God’s homeless animals – we made a lot of dogs happy that day! Even when we find ways of working with people of other religions whose creeds also tell them to help the needy, feed the hungry. Even though persons of other religions don’t all believe in Jesus, we can still share the mutual mission of doing good works to heal the world, and thereby perhaps showing them that God may see them as part of the extended family.

Those who do the will of God are part of our family because they are part of God’s family. Friends, we are living in God’s House of Tomorrow today. Only unlike one of those goofy cartoons, we may seek innovative ways to make a new family that does God’s will both here and beyond these walls. You are a part of God’s House of Tomorrow, getting right and reordered. Thanks be to God for including us in this grand vision of a new heaven and a new earth. Amen.