

**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**  
*The Church With the Holy Spirit Window*  
**January 10, 2016 Baptism of our Lord**  
**11:00 a.m.**

Rev. Amy Pospichal, Pastor

Marjorie G. McKenzie, Accompanist

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace.**

**I can feel the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face.**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

**\*Call to Worship (Please see bulletin)**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, you have been with us from generation to generation. You have claimed us in the waters of baptism and reminded us time and again that you love us and we are precious to you.

In our words and praise today, claim our hearts anew, grant us the grace of remembrance of your deep love for us, and when we leave let us leave renewed and refreshed for your service this coming week. In Christ, through Christ and with Christ we pray. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn            RH#369            "How Firm a Foundation"**

**Call to Confession**

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, in the name of the Jesus Christ, you and I are forgiven!

**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 29 (please see bulletin)**

**Hymn**

**RH #239**

**"Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"**

**Presentation of Offering and Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\*Dedication of the Offering**

### **Prayers of the People**

**(responsive: Lord of compassion and mercy: Show all people your kindness. )**

O Lord, you work righteousness for all in need  
and uphold the cause of all who are oppressed.  
Trusting in your holy ways and mighty works,  
we lift up this world before your compassion and mercy.

We pray for all who suffer under anger and accusation,  
who cannot see a way out of the pit their sin has dug.  
Lord of compassion and mercy:  
**Show all people your kindness.**

We pray for those who long for justice,  
for the healing of long-ago hurts,  
for a fair chance in life.  
Lord of compassion and mercy:  
**Show all people your kindness.**

We pray for those who seek the blessings of a spiritual community,  
but who have been turned away, ridiculed, or ignored.  
Lord of compassion and mercy:  
**Show all people your kindness.**

We pray for those who have become our enemies,  
from whom we are estranged,  
or whom we simply cannot understand.  
Lord of compassion and mercy:  
**Show all people your kindness.**

We pray for your beloved children who are sick or suffering,  
whose bodies or minds are broken,

who call out for your tender care.

Lord of compassion and mercy:

**Show all people your kindness.**

We pray for those who face the end of life,

who grieve the loss of loved ones,

or who have simply lost hope for the future.

Lord of compassion and mercy:

**Show all people your kindness.**

O Lord, we pray for your people in all the world,

calling upon your mercy in Jesus' name,

and we pray with him as we say together:

*The Lord's Prayer*

#### **Time out for Teaching: The Story of Isaiah**

Isaiah's prophetic book is very very long. It covers two exilic periods - the Assyrian exile, which was about 740's BC and then the Babylonian Exile, which was about 587 BC. I don't believe that Isaiah wrote all of that, but that perhaps there was a second guy who was following his prophetic tradition, and continued it.

Isaiah is most famous for his proclamation that God would reinstate the legacy of King David, promising the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace... Isaiah's work, through and through, is one filled with hopeful imagery and promises. But let's also remember who he was at the moment God calls to him and places him into God's service. It was in the year that King Uzziah died. A very well-documented chronology, for there were earthquakes documented, and the downfall of Jerusalem to Tiglath-Pileser III (TP3) who took Israelites as prisoners into exile.

Isaiah is called to speak words of challenge and words of comfort to Israel as their beloved families and friends languished in exile in Assyria.

Isaiah 6:1 documents the moment when the Prophet Isaiah is commissioned by God. Hear these words:

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2** Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

**4** The pivots[a] on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. **5** And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

**6** Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. **7** The seraph[b] touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." **8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**\*Congregational Response**

**We give Thee but Thine own. Whatever the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen**

**Old Testament Reading      Isaiah 43:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth —

<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

**New Testament Reading      Acts 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel Reading      Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with

water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Sermon****“Skipping Along”****Rev. Amy Pospichal**

Anyone who has been around animals understands the imagery in today's psalm, when it says “He makes Lebanon skip like a calf...” Anyone with animals, from cattle to cats, understands that when these creatures of God skip along – it's got something to do with freedom, something to do with life and spirit. It isn't just about being happy, but supremely filled with Spirit.

God promises that by the fullness of His Spirit, we may feel like skipping along. Not in a flippant or silly way, but as one deeply glad for God's love. This is serious business, faith. But it ought not be so serious that we forget the feeling of deep joy that leads us to committing our lives to Jesus Christ. Not just as an obligation because God makes us feel good, but a glad response to the knowledge of God's love for us. That should make us feel like skipping along.

Isaiah explains to us what it means to belong to God. Here, God says more directly than we find anywhere in the Bible, "Because you are precious in my sight, and I love you..." This love for them, God says, is so great, God is willing to exchange nations for them. God is promising this to Israel at a time when they have been taken prisoner in a foreign land, their homeland desecrated, and they, alienated from God and home, needed assurance of God's love. They wondered whether God had cast them aside.

They felt alienated because they had gone to a far away land, into exile.

Friends, I have news for you. If you're feeling far, far away from God, God has been beckoning to you for some time. He's been saying it to us for thousands of years: "I love you. You are precious in my sight." This is not good news. It's awesome news.

It's news that ought to make you feel like skipping along like all those other creatures of God. It should also lead us to think about other more serious things that we can do with all that love God has given us. What shall we do with it?

Jesus shows us what is done first, when we realize God's love for us. We get baptized. See baptism isn't just a one-time cleansing of sin. It is our grateful response to God's call home. Baptism isn't just cleaning us off when we realize how dirty we are. It is the outward sign of God's inward grace. Jesus wasn't in need of cleansing of sin when he approached John the Baptist. Just look what happens when he gets dunked. A voice from heaven declares, "This is my son, whom I love, and in whom I am well-pleased." From the way it's worded, it seems this declaration was for others to hear, not just a few words between Jesus and his Father. "This is my son..." seems like God is showing Jesus off. Like a public announcement making everyone aware that God claims Jesus. Then look what happens. His baptism is literally a launchpad for everything else he does for the rest of his life - the temptations in the wilderness, and then all his ministry to befriend, heal, teach. Serving - in every way that he is able - God's plan for salvation. That's where baptism sent him.

Baptism is the sign that God has publicly marked you as his beloved child and He wants to proudly show you off. And, knowing you are so loved, NOW what are you going to do about it? Skip along, as Jesus did, placing our Spirit-given gifts into God's service. Not sadly, but joyfully and thankfully. This year is a new year and today a new day. And this new day I challenge you, to think about what you love to do, and dedicate one of those things to God's service for this year. As you leave today I will be handing you a "Time and Talent Inventory." Some of you but not all have done it before. But if you haven't filled one out, please take one

and return it at next week's potluck supper. Why? Because God has loved you for a very long time, even when you thought you were far, far away, God already considered you His own child, loved and precious. Let's see what we can do with that. Thanks be to God for second chances. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn**

**RH#489**

**"Christ For the World Whom We Sing"**

**\*Benediction**

**January Birthdays**

- 1/6 Dr. Ray McCausland
- 1/12 Rev. John Mikow
- 1/14 Ray McKenzie-Young
- 1/23 Rev. Iola Allender
- 1/25 Lois Hanson
- 1/26 Marie Sims
- 1/28 Laurel Sims

**This Week at First Presbyterian**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
|                 |   |
| MWF @ 9AM       | Exercise, Eat & Pray                        |
| Tuesdays @ noon | Yoga is back!<br>9:30AM Adult Sunday School |
| Sunday:         | 11:00AM Worship                             |

**VISITORS – WELCOME**

**Thank you** for worshiping with us today. If you like, please leave your name and address in the friendship folders at the end of the pew. Please come back soon!

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

- ***If you are thinking of joining our church***, you can contact any of the Elders: Wayne or Sharon Huffman, Betty Faye Ragan, Kenna McKenzie, Julie Sursa or Ron Wilmot. You can also contact Amy at 575-708-0860. You can join by Confession of Faith, Reaffirmation of Faith or by Letter of Transfer from another church.
- Tired of seeing your name on the ***Prayer List***? Let us know if you feel it's time to come off of the list.
- Adult Sunday School is at 9:30AM in the Library. Join us next Sunday, weather permitting, to talk about what we want to study in the new year!
- Mark your calendars for two weeks from today! Make sure you are there to attend our January potluck supper, over which we will also have the Annual Congregational Meeting. At that time we will: Nominate and Elect new Elders and Deacons, Review/Approve Pastor Amy's Terms of Call and receive the Annual Report to the Congregation.

**Please,**

Pray for peace in the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan  
Pray for a safe return of daughters and sons from combat  
Pray for our global community and those in the midst of disaster  
Pray for America and her enemies, that all would seek peace!  
Pray for all the people and leaders in our local community  
Pray for those who are seeking a deeper spiritual life.  
Pray for our church, national and local  
Pray for our Presbytery  
Pray for our pastor

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING**

Dr. John and Cheryl Faith  
Shay – requested by Julie Sursa  
Jim Enriquez & family  
Emma Lowther, Lou Sims' great niece – ongoing heart trouble  
Dot Vogel  
Sacia Malone – Pancreas problems  
Jo Priddy – in nursing home in Albuquerque  
Bob McClelland – at Quail Ridge  
Tom Morris - at Quail Ridge  
Bruce White (cousin of Theresa Goldston) – recovering from heart attack  
Amber Varsallona – knee problems  
Frances Agnew - Amber's aunt, very sick  
Kay Hart and her family at the loss of her dad, Ed  
Myra (daughter of Amber's friend) – heart problems  
Clifford and Molly Kenyon (Ft. Sumner) daughter Reagan fighting cancer  
Gilbert Martinez – heart problems  
Tom Anderson – cancer  
Gloria (Teresa Gallegos-Brake's sister) - recovering