**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**

*The Church With the Holy Spirit Window*

**June 11, 2017 Trinity Sunday**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Rev. Amy Pospichal, Pastor Nancy Mueller, Accompanist**

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

**Opening Prayer**

This is your day, O Lord, for on the first day you created the heavens and the earth. On the first day you raised your Son Jesus Christ from the dead giving us new life. On the first day, your Holy Spirit came to dwell among us. This is your day. And on your day, O Lord, remake our hearts again, renewing us for your service, refreshing us for a peaceful walk with you. In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, Amen.

**Call to Confession**

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

**Assurance of Pardon**

Through the love of God in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God! 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 8:1-9 (please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

Lord, you have created and blessed your creation and called it good. You created humankind in your image and called us good. You gave us an important job to do to care for all you have made, and to be a blessing for those to whom we have been sent.

This day, caring for your world, we pray for your world.

For the least of these, the most vulnerable of your children, we ask for your protection

For our enemies and those who persecute us, we ask for you to save them and strengthen us to forgive.

For the leaders of our world – from parents and teachers to presidents and dictators – instruct them all to lead with peace and hope

For those to whom we are bound in love, bound by your Holy Spirit, we pray you teach us to treasure them always.

We now specifically name our prayers:

Lord God, Three Persons in One, we ask for your unbound love to unify your people, that we be a reflection of your unending presence with us and for us. Train us in making disciples, in listening to the needs of your world, and peacefully creating a place where life can flourish. Teach us the words we need to speak of eternal life, of hope, for all the nations. All this we ask in the name of the one who taught his disciples to pray, “Our Father, who art in heaven…Amen.”

**Offering**

**Time out for Teaching: Trinity Sunday**

An excerpt from the [*Companion to the Book of Common Worship*](http://store.pcusa.org/9780664502324) (Geneva Press, 2003, 149-150)

“Unlike other festivals in the church’s liturgical calendar, Trinity Sunday centers on a doctrine of the church, rather than an event. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God’s being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God.

“Trinity Sunday, in a sense, synthesizes all we have celebrated over the past months which have centered on God’s mighty acts: Christmas-Epiphany celebrating God’s taking flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus Christ; Easter celebrating Christ’s death and resurrection for us; Pentecost celebrating God the Holy Spirit becoming our Sanctifier, Guide, and Teacher. It is, therefore, a fitting transition to that part of the year when Sunday by Sunday the work of God among us is unfolded in a more general way.

“The triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. In the name of this triune God we are baptized. As the baptized ones we bear the name of the triune God in our being. We are of the family of the triune God. We affirm this parentage when, in reciting the creeds, we say what we believe. Our discipleship is rooted in the mighty acts of this triune God who is active in redeeming the world. The triune God is the basis of all our prayers — we pray to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. The Trinity holds central place in our faith. …

“In celebrating Trinity Sunday, remember that every Lord’s Day is consecrated to the triune God. On the first day of the week, God began creation. On the first day of the week, God raised Jesus from the grave. On the first day of the week, the Holy Spirit descended on the newly born church. Every Sunday is special. Every Sunday is a day of the Holy Trinity.”

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” 7So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. 10God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. 12The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. 16God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. 17God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” 21So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. 25God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” 27So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” 29God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2:1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

4These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

[**2 Corinthians 13:11-13**](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2017/6/11/#rcl-second-reading)

**11**Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. **12**Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

**13**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

[**Matthew 28:16-20**](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2017/6/11/#rcl-gospel)

**16**Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17**When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18**And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Sermon “Some Light Housekeeping” Rev. Amy Pospichal**

I like the way God keeps house. Not only does God clean up and bring order to chaos, God does it in an orderly way.

Here, in Genesis, we see God bringing order to chaos in an organized process. On the first day, God takes a look around and sees a need for one thing – the need to separate the earth from the sky. On the second day, God chooses to shed some light on the subject. On the next day, God decides the earth and waters are scattered about too much, and they need gathering up, so there can be land masses and bodies of water. All of this is good, God decides. God has set the stage for life to grow.

I like that.

The goal, even though it is never clearly stated for us, is to prepare a place for living things. Sun and moon to give a balance between light and darkness. There is now land and sea. The balance of these things is just what living things need to grow.

I used to think that this creative God seemed like a mad sorcerer, conjuring up whatever comes to mind. Whatever God calls out by name, it comes into being. I watched too much of Disney’s Fanstasia: The Sorcerer’s Apprentice when I was growing up. You may recall Mickey Mouse, who is just the apprentice to a sorcerer, puts on the magic hat, magically zaps a broomstick to do his housekeeping for him, and he falls asleep, dreaming of himself magically controlling seas, land and clouds. But that’s just his dream; he wakes up with a jolt to a big mess, as his broomstick has gone out of control, flooding the house with buckets of well water. He should’ve stuck to his job housekeeping.

God has a plan for life to flourish, not turn into chaos, and this has been handed over to humankind to maintain. This includes not only the building and grounds, and caring for the people in this church. It extends beyond the walls to all of God’s Creation. It includes what Jesus tells his disciples to do, to make other disciples, baptizing them, teaching them God’s commandments. It’s a daunting task. We could feel a bit overwhelmed. Some of us, like Mickey Mouse, taking on too much and making a bigger mess than when we started. Others of us may be fearful of the authority handed us. We have official housekeeping jobs, like being an elder or a deacon. We have unofficial housekeeping jobs, like visiting the sick, or cooking for the Men’s Breakfast. We might be intimidated by the work before us. But it is our calling. Fortunately Jesus is with us always, to the end of the age.

We have been made in the image of God. We, humankind, a whole species of creatures in God’s image. Notice in Genesis the presence of the Trinity, not just one but all three Persons of the Trinity, involved in creation. For it says, on the sixth day: “Let us make humankind in our image,” it says. We, the human race, is in the image of God in Three Persons. This is good news for it means we are allowed to be versatile, interactive and in relationship to one another.

Catherine Mowry LaCugna, a theologian who died at the young age of 44, conceived the Trinity as being the basis for God’s household. While many of us want to divide and describe each Person of the Trinity as if separate, distinct and with certain “jobs” to do (like Jesus is the human one who died for us, the Spirit is our comforter, etc.), she described the Trinity as the example of God with us and for us, inseparable and interconnected, just as we believers are inseparable and interconnected, in communion with one another. The Communion of the Trinity is the way we are also ordered and arranged as brothers and sisters in God’s household. By nature it can seem a little chaotic and messy, but we get through it, if we love each other and work together. If we seek together mutuality, relationships, equality, and generosity. These things make a space here that life can flourish.

Here are just a few examples of how this is already happening. Our elders have just approved a policy and procedure for letting our space to outside groups for a fee. We are now working on a procedure for what to do in case of a disaster, whether it happens to this church, or in our community. Having a policy and procedure gives the church order and decency so that new life can take place here. The decorating in this sanctuary is also evidence of life flourishing. But did you know that, a couple of women in our church, whose names you already know, have been saying,, “let us take a look around and gathering up the decorations scattered about and put the together in one place so we can see what we have…” Sounds a little like what God did with the waters and the land. They now have a work room next door so they can create things to beautify this church. I could mention a number of other things happening. Things you are doing so that life here can flourish. These things wouldn’t happen if your relationships were not rooted in God. I thank God that they are.

Our housekeeping methods may sometimes feel a bit messy; we might be a bit overwhelmed. We might even be doing it with a bit of fear and trembling. Make sure whatever you do here in God’s house is in order that life shall flourish, and that you do it in community with each other, as a people made in God’s image. Thank you for all you do here. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn**

**\*Benediction**

**Prayer Requests:**