**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, November 26, 2017, Reign of Christ**

**525 RH Come, Ye Thankful People Come Accompanist Betty Ragan**

**144 BH Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!**

**146 BH Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

**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 100:1-5 (please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

You, O Lord are Master of all the universe, by your hand we receive all good things.

We thank you for the many people who could come help out for the service and meal for Marjorie McKenzie yesterday.

We thank you for her long life and service to this church and for life and service of all your saints. We pray that we always make you proud by our own dedication in your kingdom.

We praise you for your love and preservation of humankind,

For teaching us through your Son how to love and serve your world,

And for the images of the Messiah which instruct us to understand your plan of redemption.

Guide our hearts with hope and fill us with joy

To help the helpless

To give hope to the despairing

To illumine hearts who have lost their way

Lift up all your missionaries here and worldwide

So that your reign be known throughout all the earth.

We particularly pray for:

It is in your kingdom that we live and move and have our being. You alone are worthy of all honor, praise and glory, Almighty God. It is in the name of Jesus the Christ, Prince of Peace, we pray, “Our Father…Amen.”

**Time Out for Teaching:** **Judge and King**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

11For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**Matthew 25:31-46**

31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ 45Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Sermon: “Get Lost!”**

Have you ever gotten lost?

Lost in the star-filled night sky?

Lost in a painting?

Gotten lost walking in a field?

Lost in the beauty of a smile?

In a conversation or story?

Times like that, a moment can feel like hours. When time stands still.

Today I invite you to get lost.

Why? Because our God is King of all the universe and there is no way, so long as you love Him, no way that He will let you go.

So get lost.

Lose yourself in the service He calls you to. Lose yourself in giving your talents to His kingdom where they are needed most. Lose yourself in your daily work, where you spend your many hours each day.

Getting lost is a trust walk with God. Getting lost in these ways is an act of faith, knowing that Jesus is walking with us, even when we temporarily take our minds off of Him and apply ourselves in some thing that brings good into the world.

The writer and mystic Brother Lawrence speaks of getting lost. As a monk, he spent his days working in the kitchen at a monastery. He writes of the details of his work, scrubbing pans, cleaning floors, peeling vegetables. His dirty work reveals the presence of God as he attends to those activities, his work is his devotion to Christ his King.

Here is a short prayer from Brother Lawrence:
*O Lord of pots and pans and things,
Since I have no time to be
a great saint by doing lovely things,
or watching late with Thee,
or dreaming in the dawnlight,
or storming Heaven’s gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals,
and washing up the plates.*

*Warm all the kitchen with Thy Love,
and light it with Thy peace;
Forgive me all my worrying,
and make my grumbling cease.
Thou who didst love to give men food
in room, or by the sea,
Accept the service that I do-
I do it unto Thee.*

It seems so small the work he describes, but so important, to know that the littlest and least things of life are not excluded from God’s reign. In fact, as we dedicate our lives and work to the least of these, they too are imbued with holiness. On this day when we consider Jesus Christ’s Lordship over all the Cosmos, it is good to remember that the big picture such as the cosmic image Ephesians gives us includes “all in all” even the littlest of things. From stars, sunsets, and global politics, to the dirty dishes, and the workings of our individual hearts.

He is Lord of all, and fills all in all.

I admit that I struggle with what Ephesians means. It is a later letter of the apostles, written probably as a circular letter to the regions throughout what is now modern-day Turkey. It is a big picture message, as their understanding of Jesus the Christ had expanded in magnitude beyond knowing Him as the miraculous man from Galilee. Ephesians blurs the lines between the Jews and the Gentiles. It tells them that they will be okay, to serve together in the same Kingdom of God, telling them that Jesus fills “all in all.” And how much is “all”? Everything in the created world. It means that he is not just King of the Jews or King of Christians, but King of All. And His kingship is not regional, not temporal or spatial. His kingship is for all time and for every place, even places not yet touched by humankind.

This means that there is no place in all this cosmos that you can go that God has not already touched. He is king of it all.

So, all, even the least of these, matters to this good King of Everything and Everyplace and Everytime. Every person and everything matters to Him. The lost and lonely, the hungry and homeless – Matthew tells us that they are a part of Jesus’ vast family. And every crumb of food and every thing you do to serve Him matters. After the worship service and after people started to go home, well-fed, I witnessed you, in the kitchen, cleaning dishes, discerning what to do with leftovers. You were lost in the moment as you worked together, carefully storing up food in airtight containers, Ziploc bags, aluminum foil. You made sure that it was cooled properly before sealing it up, and sending it home with the McKenzie family. Perhaps at that time, Jesus was not at the forefront of your minds, but he was in your hearts as you lost yourselves in the kitchen work. Brother Lawrence would have been proud of you. It is not unimportant what you do. Every small act matters in God’s kingdom.

So it means that – those of us who choose to belong to His kingdom – we are allowed to Get Lost! Not to escape, for we know we cannot. There are plenty of ways you can lose yourself in serving Him – both in our community and in this church. Dive in and explore what your heart has always told you would be good for God’s kingdom. Seek His face in the unlikeliest of places and He will be there. His kingdom is vast so wherever you go, you will find Him there. Dream big or dream small. You can get lost in seeking Him and He will find you. Amen.

**Announcements:**

Many thanks to all who helped us with the funeral service for Marjorie C. McKenzie. Your efforts are much appreciated by all.

Saturday, December 2nd at 8:00AM the Men’s Breakfast will meet at the Church. Come with your appetites!

Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00AM we will all converge to Hang the Greens in preparation for Advent! The Advent Season begins the very next day.

“Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ,

such as a heavenly city,

a father’s house,

a new heaven and earth,

a marriage feast,

and an unending day

culminate in the image of the kingdom.

The kingdom represents the triumph of God

over all that resists God’s will and disrupts God’s creation.

Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world,

stirring hope in us

and preparing the world

to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope,

the church applies itself to present tasks

and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress

with the kingdom of God on earth,

nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope,

the church looks beyond all partial achievement

to the final triumph of God.” (**Confession of 1967, 9.54 – 9.55)**