**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**

*The Church With the Holy Spirit Window*

**December 26, 2021 First Sunday After Christmas**

Rev. Amy Pospichal, Pastor Marjorie G. McKenzie, Accompanist

**RH 168 Angels From the Realms of Glory**

**RH 159 What Child is This?**

**BH 322 Spirit of the Living God (Prayer for Illumination)**

**RH 100 All Creatures of our God and King**

**Call to Worship**

Arise and awaken, children of God!

**For our light has come, and the glory of the Holy One shines out!**

Lift up your eyes! Look around you!

**The people gather together – the people of all nations come together to worship God**

You shall see and shall shine with God’s light

**Let us rejoice and praise God, whose love shines forth into the world.**

**Opening Prayer**

Christmas God,  
because you came to us as a helpless little baby,  
we are reminded that each of us, young and old alike, are your children.  
Through the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
the Word has been made flesh and light has shattered the darkness.  
Bless this our worship and lead us to your everlasting light.  **Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

As we continue the season of Christmas,  
let us confess our sins,  
our actions and our inactions,  
that are contrary to the kingdom of the newborn King.

**Confession (Responsive)**Almighty God,  
The verbs of Psalm 147 remind us of your actions:  
you strengthen, bless, grant, fill, send, give, make, and declare.  
But we confess that our verbs do not always match yours:  
we argue, fight, lie, steal, oppress, ignore, refuse, and silence.

**Forgive us, Lord, for what we’ve done to tarnish your holy name.  
Give us courage, merciful God, to make our actions match yours.  
Help us to shed our sin and join you in your redemptive work.  
This we pray in your good and gracious name.***~silence~* **Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that our sin does not have the final word.  
God will turn our mourning into joy, God will comfort us,  
God will give us gladness for sorrow.  
Friends, in the name of the Jesus Christ, you and I are forgiven!  
**Alleluia!  Amen!**

Friends, Believe the good news of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

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 148**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels;**

**praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens,**

**and you waters above the heavens!**

5Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them forever and ever;**

**he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**Mountains and all hills,**

**fruit trees and all cedars!**

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples,**

**princes and all rulers of the earth!**

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,**

**for his name alone is exalted;**

**his glory is above earth and heaven.**

He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

**Praise the Lord!**

**Prayers of the People**

You spoke long ago  
of dreams you had  
for creation,  
of hopes you offer  
to all your children,  
of love which will  
never, ever end.  
We rejoice this day in you,  
Majesty on high!

You left the right hand of God  
to come and take ours  
to lead us back home.  
You brought life into  
the valleys of our death.  
You carried the Light  
into the shadows of the world.  
We rejoice this day in you,  
Child of Bethlehem.

This day we raise our prayers of hope and thanksgiving for your gentle keeping, out loud and then in silence…

You teach us new songs  
when the old ones fade.  
You anoint us with the oil  
of Christmas joy.  
You make us heirs  
of Christ’s faithfulness.  
We rejoice this day in you,  
Spirit of grace.

We rejoice in you this day,  
God in Community, Holy in One,  
as we pray as we are taught, saying,  
Our Father . . .

**Offering**

**Prayer for Illumination BH 322 Spirit of the Living God**

**Time out for Teaching: “Bible Types”**

I thought I would point out the obvious today… Since we don’t have a children’s sermon – no children this morning – let’s talk about “types” in the Bible. On Friday night I mentioned Miriam, sister of Moses, dancing and celebrating the freedom of the Israelites, and that God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The deliverance was literally by flooding the Egyptian army and their Pharaoh – whom the Egyptians believed was God by divine mandate – as they pursued the Israelites across the Red Sea. There are other types of “deliverance moments” in the Bible when water floods away our pursuers. Can you think of any? How about… baptism?

There are other “types.” If you read many of the early stories of the prophets, you may see some “Jesus types,” one of whom we will read in a moment. The prophet Samuel is one of those. You will hear similar words said about Samuel. Do you recall what “types” of things happened at his birth? His parents, Elkanah and Hannah had trouble conceiving a child and she felt hurt that she didn’t have one. As the story goes, the Lord finally blessed her and she had Samuel. You will hear in chapter 2 of 1 Samuel about his dedication in the Temple and his participation in annual sacrifices. Then we are told, “Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people…” Sounds a lot like Jesus.

I suppose you could say that the types we see in the Scriptures are all leading us closer to God!

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

18Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

26Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

**Epistle Reading Colossians 3:12-17**

12As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Gospel Luke 2:41-52**

41Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50But they did not understand what he said to them. 51Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**Sermon “Twelve Going on Thirty” Rev. Amy Pospichal**

Just like the prophet Samuel, who grew in the Lord’s favor through the years, so did Jesus. Both of these young men had to grow up quite quickly. Samuel became a servant of Elisha, when he was still a boy. And Jesus, well, you might say he was twelve going on thirty. He was no ordinary boy. His parents knew that. His mother witnessed much and treasured it all in her heart.

They didn’t really have “baby books” yet – those books where you record your child’s early years, starting from birth, capturing precious moments like their tiny footprints and pictures of their first bath. Everything Mary had to go on, knowing that her child was the Son of God, had to be her own memories. The home life of an ancient Israelite was mostly very private, for in the Roman culture, women and children were not seen often in public, except for specific places. I have wondered what it was like to grow up with Jesus. But maybe this is one of the conveniences that God chose, for there are very few stories of Jesus when he was very young and they are pretty much disputed as authentic and are not in the Bible. So, a lot of God’s childhood remains mostly a secret treasure, held forever in Mary’s heart. Perhaps that was God’s very special gift to Mary, for it seems like God never actually asked her if she would mind being His sacred vessel.

Today’s story of Jesus shows us a moment when he was twelve years old. This is about the age of a boy’s “bar mitzvah,” when a boy becomes a “son of the commandment.” This is sort of like what we do when a kid completes confirmation class and confesses her faith in Jesus. Jesus is in other words “becoming a man” in the eyes of the Temple. But instead of other kids who are students of the Torah, he is in there sitting among the teachers, discussing it as one of them. Can you imagine how it must have felt to be his parents? They traveled an entire day away from Jerusalem before realizing he was gone. They had to go another day’s journey back to look for him and after 2 more days of searching, they were able to find him. As a parent, I would have been frantic and then to find him there calmly in the Temple, chatting away with the scholars of the Law, I would then have been pretty angry. I am sure there were other times when it was frustrating raising the Son of God. He could really tell them off sometimes, as He does here, “Can’t you see I’m busy here? I am in my Father’s House…” It must have been difficult at times to know just what was good for him and what he could do for himself!

But maybe also, Mary and Joseph learned early on a lesson that the rest of us are still working hard it at learning. For they got to live with God in their house. They fed Him. Clothed Him. And there are times like the one we just heard here, when He lets them know exactly what His business is. To be in His Father’s house. Mary and Joseph didn’t exactly apply to be parents of the Messiah, but they sure are finding out what the job entails, and Jesus isn’t the usual kind of kid. He’ll let you know what he wants and needs. For he has one reason for being here. He is here on behalf of God, about God’s business, starting in His Father’s house. Starting with us.

It’s not always easy to predict the whereabouts of Jesus. In fact, during the holidays, amid the leftovers, the trash bags of wrapping paper and discarded packaging, the boxes we save to return the wrong sized bathrobe, we might lose sight of Jesus. Where is Jesus? You can find Him here in His house, in this tiny gathering of dedicated worshipers. And after leaving here, you can find Him in the streets, walking alongside one of our homeless people. We have homeless here. You might see Him in the line at the grocery store, with several children climbing on the shopping cart, punching in the code for her EBT card. You can also find Jesus in the weary face of a police officer working the graveyard shift on New Year’s Eve. You can also find Jesus in your own heart, even if it is broken right now and your holidays haven’t been so bright.

For Jesus is born. Our light, our love, and our song. He was given a very ordinary and common name for Jewish boys of his time. (like all those girls named Amy in the 1970s) But this kid was nothing but extraordinary. Not an ordinary boy whatsoever, one who was not just mildly precocious like Mozart. He came to carry out His Father’s business, came to heal the pain of this world and to lead us to righteousness. But you better watch out. He looks pretty sweet and cute in that manger with the animals around him and angels singing above. He represents hope and joy for us and all the world. But following this child could lead you to do some pretty extraordinary things too. Let’s do them together in 2022. Praise Him! Amen.

**\*Benediction**

**Prayer Requests:**

Amy (Glenna Gray’s daughter) chronic medical issues  
Betty (Alzheimer’s) and Dolores (paralyzed) – Glenda’s sisters  
Bill Assini – fell, broken rib, in a lot of pain

Dorothy Randals’ Family in their loss

Elmer Schuster - leg pain

Fay Birch – stage 4 cancer   
Glenda Coles – awaiting shoulder surgery (early December)  
Gloria Martinez (Teresa Gallegos’ sister) – healing after leg surgery

Jenna Morris – recovery from knee surgery (not much longer)  
Lucy Jasper – Alzheimers/Dementia  
Misty Tompkins and her family – stiff person syndrome, seeking experimental program

Victoria Sieglen and family – grief in loss of mother, Pat  
People seeking jobs, and people seeking employees  
Ruth Johnson – for general health  
Sarah Hittson's daughter Marie - surgery  
Schools, students, teachers and families  
Sharon and Wayne Huffman – general health  
Shay – Julie Sursa’s daughter

Susie – still seeking a car, planning for EMS school  
Teresa Gallegos-Brake – high risk leg surgery and amputation

Tommy Morris – for health and strength  
Travelers  
All those suffering from COVID19

**Announcements:**

**May everyone have a safe Thanksgiving week.**

**Bible Study** will resume Thursday, December 2nd at 5:15PM. We are presently thinking of what to study next. Special Requests? Ask Amy 575-708-0860