**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, February 18, 2018, First Sunday in Lent**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

God we glorify you,

Whether it is windy, rainy or a bright clear day,

We put our confidence in you.

Let our words and meditations be our praise,

Let our lives lived in faith fulfill our baptisms,

Let us be found acceptable in your sight,

For you are our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

**Call to Confession**

God calls us, sometimes in a storm and sometimes in a silence,  
through His word written and proclaimed,  
through the voice of stranger and enemy and friend.

**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 25:1–10 (Please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

O Lord, you are our light and our salvation;  
we are not afraid of anyone or anything.  
When terrible things happen, we put our trust in you,  
and we know you are always with us.  
Help us to see you at work in our lives always.

We pray for people who are suffering or frightened today,  
and for everybody who is sick or grieving;  
wrap your arms around them,  
give them healing,  
and keep them safe.  
We pray that everyone would be able to sing your praises  
and tell that you have done wonderful things for them.

Show us how to follow you, O Lord,  
and help us live as your disciples  
as long as we live.  
We pray in Jesus’ name,  
who taught us to pray, saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Time Out for Teaching: Practicing Lent – Drowning**

We baptized Jack Dyer when 95 years old. He was so excited about that day, his son informed me later that he had a special suit picked and laid out the night before. Jack had a granddaughter travel here from Arizona and both his children and their spouses came for the occasion.

Later Jack took a bunch of us from the church to lunch at K-Bob’s and it was a grand celebration of New Life in Christ. But, during the lunch, he whispered loudly to me, “Are you the woman who tried to drown me?” with a big smile on his face.

His question was in jest, but later on I saw the significance. Baptism signifies our death to our past and rising in new life in Christ. It is most pronounced when you witness an immersion baptism. The minister stands there with the candidate in the water, lowers him or her all the way into the waters, then lifts him back out, clean, new, and soaking wet. That symbolism of the person’s death and rising is an ancient one. It is our choice to take the plunge and knowing that when you come out a new person means that you will then, with the help of God and the church, find new meaning and direction in a life of service to Him.

The Biblical Lent began with Jesus’ own baptism. And it continues with heading into the wilderness where he was tempted for forty days. He fasted there. Mark’s gospel tells us Jesus was with the wild beasts and the angels waited on him. Mark’s gospel does not detail the temptations which we often remember, Satan tempting Jesus with food, power and glory. Mark simply says Jesus was there, “tempted by Satan.”

Part of what all this could mean is even after baptism, we all continue to be tempted by things. And there will be for us, unlike Jesus, opportunities to repent.

Today I want to remind you of what our baptism represents. In addition to joining the great Universal Family of God, it represents our willingness to die. A difficult thing to do. And in order to rise to new life, we have to be willing to die.

**Prayer for Illumination**

God our Creator,  
your voice claims us as your people  
and calls us into new relationship  
with ourselves and others.  
By your Holy Spirit, help us hear your voice speaking to us  
through these words of scripture,  
and prepare us for your service,  
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Genesis 9:8–17**

8Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**1 Peter 3:18–22**

18For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. 21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**Mark 1:9–15**

9In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

12And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

**Sermon: “Deep Sea Diving”**

There’s a particular song Garth Brooks sings:

“Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers

Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs

That just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care

Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers”

These words he sang as he told a story of when he prayed so hard for a certain woman to become his wife but his wish didn’t come true. In hindsight, he was able to say God knows best. To be able to say this about unanswered prayers takes a certain depth of faith. To state that God knows best comes from some experience walking with God. When we can say we are prepared to trust God in spite of life’s uncertainties, it’s a sign of a deep and growing faith.

It is the first step we take in faith and the promises we make when we choose to be baptized. Baptism signifies our death to an old way and rising to a new way. We commit not just part of our lives, but all the rest of our lives to the practice of diving deep to explore God’s plan for us. Surely you have discovered at some point the treasured wisdom that “Some of God’s greatest gifts are unanswered prayers…” Our walk of faith, willingness to allow God’s way before our own yields a treasure trove of wisdom.

This walk of faith is not an easy one, as demonstrated by Jesus’ own walk after his baptism.

For Jesus, baptism was the initiation of his ministry to the world. It is the initiatory event for every Christian since time of the Apostles. So often while we tend to think of Baptism as a moment of cleansing with that blessed water, what it does for Jesus is it marks him outwardly as God’s own Son, and sends him on the journey of temptation in the wilderness, a perilous journey of testing, where all Jesus has is his own wisdom and knowledge of God, in the company of wild beasts and angels. Baptism for Jesus was not to cleanse him of sin. For he was without sin. It was a moment for God to name him for his sacred ministry. And we know that ministry was risky, dangerous work.

Our baptisms are joyful moments, and we celebrate them. God marks us out too as members of His family, as servants to His mission. And when we have lived our lives and come to their end, we hope that God will say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” At that time, we can say that person has “completed” his or her baptism.

You and I know that following Christ is not for the faint of heart, but the more we devote ourselves to that journey, the more open we become to discover treasures along the way - not silver and gold - but sometime far more precious. The First letter of Peter writes to the early Christians struggling under the woes of persecution, because of their faith. It must have called for them to have a depth of faith that I’m not sure I can imagine: standing firm in the face of death and danger; being able to respond to criticism from people who don’t understand. They don’t sound like the frozen chosen to me.

A few years ago, I heard a comparison of faith – especially the study and discernment of God’s Word – faith compared to deep sea diving. The ocean has hidden depths and treasures yet to be explored. The more time we give to prayer and study of Scripture, the richer of our faith life. The more we can spend asking questions, being patient with unanswered prayer, open to what might come to us from just listening for God to speak, the more treasures yielded to us over a lifetime. It’s not just for a weekend project or a month-long search for answers. It’s our lifelong our baptismal commitment.

Featured during the Olympic coverage were a small island in Korea where women carry on a centuries-old tradition. Called “Haenyo,” they go deep sea diving, without oxygen tanks, just wet suits, masks and a net to carry their tools and treasures. Their initiation begins at 11 years old, learning to hold their breaths for up to three minutes and swim as far as 30 meters deep, almost 100 feet. The oldest known Haenyo right now is 82 years old. They spend several hours in the ocean every day, even in winter, braving dangerous weather, sharks and jellyfish. They didn’t use to be respected in the 18th century, but now are revered. These women are listed by UNESCO as an “intangible cultural heritage.” This deep sea diving is their practice and their livelihood and it takes practice.

What if we imagined our faith a little like that? That even in those moments of life’s uncertainty, we are able to holding our breath just a little longer, and wait on the Lord. This life we live is not for the faint of heart but endlessly rewarding if we are willing to spend time on it. Be a deep sea diver in faith this Lenten season. Take 5 minutes of silence and listen for God. Crack open your Bible for a little while and take a nibble on Scripture. Write down some memories of where and when God took care of you. Lent comes only once a year. Our baptism is for a lifetime. Go deep this Lent. Amen.

**Ordination and Installation of Elder Jenna Morris and Installation of Elder Julie Sursa, Deacons Kenna McKenzie-Young and Marjorie Gene McKenzie**

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**There is one body and one spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling…**

*The moderator or minister presents the candidates, saying:*

In baptism, Jenna, Julie, Kenna, Marge were clothed with Christ, and are now called by God through the voice of the church to enter into ministries of service and governance, announcing in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ.

We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God’s particular call to our brothers and sisters.

**STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ’s own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as elders, and as ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ’s gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the session of First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari now ordains and installs Jenna Morris to the office of Elder to active service.

The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained: Deacons Kenna McKenzie-Young, Marjorie Gene McKenzie and Elder Julie Sursa.

**REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

Please stand if you are able. Those who are to be ordained and/or installed gather at the baptismal font or pool, which shall be ﬁlled with water.

The minister continues:

Ordination calls the whole church to renewed commitment, and reminds us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of baptism. Let us, therefore, reafﬁrm our baptismal vows, renouncing all that opposes God and God’s rule and afﬁrming the faith of the holy catholic church.

**RENUNCIATIONS**

The minister addresses all present:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**I will, with God’s help.**

**PROFESSION**

The minister continues:

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was cruciﬁed, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Water is poured visibly and audibly into the font or pool.

The minister may place his or her hand into the water of the font or pool, lift up some water, let it fall back into the font or pool, and then make the sign of the cross over the people while saying:

Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Constitutional Questions**

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?

**I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

**I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

**I will.**

Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?

**I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

**I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

**I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

**I will.**

***To deacons:***

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people’s help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will.**

***To elders:***

Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will.**

An elder addresses members of the congregation:

Do you, the members of the church, accept these good people as your deacons and elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

**We do.**

**PRAYER OF ORDINATION**

Those who are to be ordained kneel, facing the congregation.

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and elders stand behind the candidates.

One of the following prayers is then said by the moderator or minister:

Eternal God,

we give you thanks for your faithfulness to us.

In every age you have called leaders to serve you

and equipped them with your gifts.

In the Scriptures,

you anointed prophets, priests, and rulers,

pastors and teachers,

bishops, elders, and deacons

to build up your church.

They bore the burdens of your people,

ministering in the power of your Spirit.

They cared for all in need

and guarded the community’s peace.

In the church, we serve you,

so that your whole people

might be equipped for ministry,

and built up into the full unity of Christ.

Pour out your Holy spirit on Jenna, Julie, Marge and Kenna,

that *they* may be faithful deacons and elders in the church.

Give openness to the Holy Spirit’s leading

that *they* may see and serve wherever there is need.

Train *them* in the school of prayer that *they* may express the compassion of Christ

for the poor and the friendless, the sick, the grieving, and the troubled.

Equip *them* with courage to bear the gospel into the halls of power,

and to communicate your presence and might among those who are powerless.

In everything, give them the mind of Christ,

who did not grasp at greatness but emptied himself, to become a servant of your reign.

Nourish *them* in the life of the Holy Spirit,

that *they* may exercise the ministry of discipline

with humility and compassion.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,

that we may discern the gifts you have given,

calling them forth from one another,

and together use these gifts for the good of all.

Make us strong in Christ

to live as your people

and show forth your saving love in the world,

by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

The moderator addresses those who are newly ordained and installed:

Jenna, Julie, Marge and Kenna, you are now elders and deacons

in the church of Jesus Christ

and for this congregation.

Be faithful and true in your ministry

so that your whole life will bear witness

to the crucified and risen Christ.

**WELCOME**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

**CHARGE**

The newly ordained and installed elders and deacons remain standing.

*2 Tim. 2:15*

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him,

a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

**Friends in Christ, please welcome with me your freshly-installed leaders, the class of 2021!**

**Announcements:**

It’s Potluck Sunday! Please stick around and break bread with us.

The Elders will have their next meeting on Wednesday, March 7th at 5:30PM.

Deacons are called to a short planning meeting after worship on Feb 25th.