**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, February 17, 2019, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**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 1:1-6 (please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

Let us pray to God saying:  
God of Wisdom, **draw near to us**

Ever-present God,  
we look around the world and we see places where people cry out to you:  
in places torn by the ravages of war,  
in countries demolished by natural disasters,  
in areas of where there are no jobs,  
in families across our state who have been devastated by violence, addiction and disease.  
Help us bear your light into the places in the world that need illumination and healing.  
God of Wisdom, **draw near to us.**

Gracious God,  
give us a gentleness born of wisdom  
that we might go out into the world and serve as your ambassadors.  
In order to do that, bless us with the wisdom needed to do so –  
a wisdom that is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,  
full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.  
God of Wisdom, **draw near to us.**

God of all mercy and grace,  
give us the courage to seek you out,  
to search our hearts for your truth,  
and to be guided by the stories of scripture.  
Since our hearts do not rest until they rest in you,  
lead us to the pastures of your protection,  
that we might be faithful members of your flock.  
God of Wisdom, **draw near to us.**

Healing God,  
we pray for those among us this day who need your love:  
for those who struggle with depression’s grip,  
for those who journey with physical disabilities,  
for those who are lonely,  
for those who are hopeless,  
for those who are addicted,  
for those who are angry and bitter,  
for those who are broken and battered,  
and for those we lift up to you in silence this day…  
God of Wisdom, **draw near to us.**

Giver of Hope and Truth,  
hear us today as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying: **Our Father…**

**Time Out for Teaching: Route 66 Hospitality**

How many of you know about our Travelers’ Pantry?

How does it work?

What are some other ways we can use food as ministry, if we have excess food? What do you think?

What stories in the Bible does this ministry remind you of?

Abraham welcoming the visitors who turned out to be angels in disguise Genesis 18

How about this one, from Leviticus 19:33? “[**33**](http://biblehub.com/leviticus/19-33.htm)“ ‘When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. [**34**](http://biblehub.com/leviticus/19-34.htm)The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Or this from Matthew 25:34-36 “‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [**35**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/25-35.htm)For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, [**36**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/25-36.htm)I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

5Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. 6They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

7Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. 8They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-who can understand it? 10I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

12Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ-whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**Luke 6:17-26**

17He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

22"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

26"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

**Sermon: If Christ Weren’t Raised…**

What if there weren’t a resurrection? Paul the Apostle raises the possibility today in his letter to the Corinthian church. If Christ were not raised from the dead, then our proclamation has been in vain. He says, if Christ were not raised from the dead, then we are without hope. He wrote: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.” A little earlier in this chapter, Paul listed the order by which he received the news of Christ’s resurrection, from the first apostles who were the first witnesses on Easter Morning, who then passed on the message to others and eventually to Paul. He gives this testimony to show that the Resurrection is not just something he knows. It is solidly supported by the line of witnesses who came before him.

Everything, according to Paul, that he has done or said on their behalf, while raising them up as a church, is driven by his belief that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. His desire to proclaim the good news of grace, of knowing we are not alone, his desire to tell the Corinthians that there is a better way to love one another, all he has just been telling them since the start of his letter, was because of his belief in Jesus’ resurrection.

But he says, if Christ weren’t raised from the dead, it would be all for nothing. We would be the people most pitied for having put our hope in a lie. True enough for us as well. All that we have done as a church: raising funds for works of justice and mercy. Worship services. Hanging out with each other. Giving of our money to build up this church. My standing at a cold street corner, dispensing ashes to passersby the last years. All would be for nothing if there were no Resurrection of Christ. Furthermore, the words of Jesus would be unbelievable to us too, particularly the harder ones like what we just heard: Blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek… Claims that make no sense, except that they were made by the man who was later raised from the dead. If Christ weren’t raised from the dead, it would be harder to believe the difficult things He has to say to us. Difficult, for they claim that those who seem least important, weakest, most long-suffering, happen to be “blessed.” If Christ hadn’t been raised from the dead, then his words would be harder for us to believe.

The resurrection of Christ could by saying that the very things we see as impossible are actually possible. With God, nothing is impossible. God entered the human condition, suffered, died, was buried and broke the bonds of death. No one could have ever done it, but Jesus, God in the Flesh, can and did. Because of Him, death has lost its sting.

Just consider what this means for us as people of faith. Because death has lost its sting, we can find the courage to do daring and difficult things - like forgive someone. Terrifying things like, share our bread with someone less-fortunate. The resurrection can give us the courage to stand up and speak about the difference between right and wrong. We have the inspiration from God to seek understanding from Scripture and ask questions without fear. The truth about the resurrection is, it can reconcile us with God, with one other, and with persons we may never have considered could be our friends and fellow workers for Christ. Because of the resurrection we can try (and risk even failing) to do the difficult things of life!

Paul confirms that Jesus WAS raised from the dead. The link in the chain remains unbroken since the first witnesses, so we can believe the message that has been passed on to us. We continue to do the same kinds of works as those first witnesses 2,000 years ago! Let’s continue to fearlessly passing on the resurrection hope. Amen.

**Announcements:**

Today is Potluck Dinner Day! Stick around for fellowship and a meal after worship.

Thanks to all who helped PW with the Vintage High Tea, and to all who attended.

**Take Note:** Ash Wednesday is in less than 1 month (beginning March 6th). If you want to plan Ash Wednesday with your pastor, please tell her soon.

Tomorrow, February 18th, the Fellowship Hall will be in use by a private group from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. If you come in, come quiet. Thank you!