**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, July 1, 2018, 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Hymns:**

**RH 135 Fairest Lord Jesus**

**RH 253 How I Love Thy Law, O Lord!**

**RH 46 O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright**

**Call to Worship**

Healing God, we come today seeking your presence in our broken places.

**In our own stories, we have struggles, we carry burdens, and mask our shame.**

Help us find the courage to reach out to you in all places—not just in the church, but also out on the streets.

**May we touch the hem of your garment and be reminded of your words—that we are enough—that our faith has made us well.**

We invite you into our hearts and welcome the transformation you continually inspire!

**Let us turn to you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. Let us worship God.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**We want to see you, Jesus…but sometimes we are too afraid to ask for help.  
We want to see you…but we aren’t sure if those people should be allowed to come too.  
We want to see you…but we don’t love the way you talk about sacrifice and death, or about outcasts and sinners.  
We want to see you…but we also want to know how it’ll go first.  
Forgive us.  
Fill us  
with courage to step forward and seek,  
with openness to those around us,  
with vision to see your big picture,  
with trust to follow you.  
In Christ’s name, and for his sake.** (silence) **Amen.**

**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 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

**Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive**

**to the voice of my supplications!**

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,**

**so that you may be revered.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

**my soul waits for the Lord**

**more than those who watch for the morning,**

**more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

**It is he who will redeem Israel**

**from all its iniquities.**

**Time out for Teaching: Scarcity versus Abundance**

**Jesus could feel when the power of God left his body.**

**If he could feel the draining of his power, then so can we all.**

**We as a people are always vacillating between the call to convey God’s abundance and the call to be good stewards of all that to which God has us.**

**“To us belong the keys to the kingdom…” and “**

**So, the power of God is something that**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

7Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

8I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.9For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.10And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something — 11now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means.12For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has — not according to what one does not have.13I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between14your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.15As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."

**Mark 5:21-43**

21When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. 22Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet 23and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." 24So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. 25Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. 26She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. 27She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." 29Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" 31And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" 32He looked all around to see who had done it. 33But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. 34He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

35While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" 36But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." 37He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. 38When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. 39When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." 40And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" 42And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. 43He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**Sermon: Profiles in Faith**

Maybe it’s because this time of year it’s too hot to cook anything indoors. Or maybe it’s because Watson’s BBQ recently got a national distinction by MSN who ranked them 13th in the nation for quality BBQs. Maybe because I eat a lot of sandwiches. But our reading from Mark looks an awful lot like a sandwich. In fact, Mark is – to us Bible Geeks – well known for his story sandwiches.

This morning is a story sandwich about people who had enough faith to be healed. It’s a well-built sandwich that you cannot possibly pick apart without losing some of the story’s power. (No one likes a sandwich that’s not made well?)

The sandwich bun is a story of the Jewish synagogue leader whose 12-year--old daughter is dying. It’s not quite clear whether she actually did die by the time Jesus arrives at her home, for Jesus says something that the crowds find funny because they had a euphemism about death – that it is only sleeping. The disbelieving crowds thought it a bit humorous – as inappropriate as that sounds. The end of this hearty sandwich meal comes when everyone is amazed that Jesus spoke to her in Aramaic and lifted her up by the hand. Whether dead or just near death, Jesus has performed a miraculous healing, and it happened because her dad, Jairus, boldly approached Jesus and took him home with him.

On the inside of this sandwich, there is a different profile in faith. Where Jairus, a very important man in the synagogue, boldly and publicly calls to Jesus to come heal his daughter, we also see this woman who has suffered for 12 years. 12 years of bleeding has rendered her useless and ritually impure to society. And until this woman’s condition can be healed, she is simply not allowed to participate in any religious activities. She cannot keep company with anyone. She is an untouchable even in the Temple.

So this woman must make the bold decision to reach out and touch Jesus, even though she herself might get in serious trouble for doing that. First, because she is an untouchable. Second, because a female reaching out in public to touch a holy man. But in her way of thinking, the potential benefit is worth the risk. To think that she might finally be free of her suffering, if she would just reach out against social conventions to be healed, that was enough reason to do it. As Jesus moved through the crowds with the synagogue leader, that suffering woman was watching, calculating the very moment when she’d be able to brush her hand on the tassels of his cloak. And even though she was filled with a new dread when she has to own up to her actions, her miraculous healing probably gave her new courage to speak up and say, “I did it!”

Obviously, a sandwich is not a sandwich if the inside of it doesn’t contain something substantial. I confess that the inside of Mark’s sandwich carries a pretty substantial message of Faith and Freedom. And, foiled by the other profile in faith of Jairus the synagogue leader, the woman just seems to me bold, desperate, fearful and therefore courageous in faith. She was alone in this life, until she pushed herself to reach out to Jesus.

It is not fair for us to compare Jairus and the woman. For they occupied very different stations in life. In a way, you might say, that they each show us different but acceptable ways to reach out to Jesus for help, from their own particular places of despair. “Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord hear my voice!” says today’s Psalm. Neither of them are criticized for their means of getting Jesus’ help. Instead of berating the woman for being so brash and socially inappropriate, Jesus praises her for her exemplary faith. And Jairus, well, because he was a male, he was able to approach Jesus differently, going to Jesus as a holy man and expert in healing. And Jairus is not deterred by the disbelieving bystanders.

What if we worried less about what the best way to ask Jesus for help and instead knew that Jesus was just glad you asked? I cannot tell people how to have enough faith to make that first contact with Him. But I can tell you that it is okay to have a tiny faith and to start small. Jesus once said, “If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed…” you can do something great. This is true especially if we are having time like that woman or like Jairus.

This Independence Day as we celebrate our freedom, I hope that you can remember that the freedom that God offers us in Jesus Christ is even above and beyond what we enjoy as Americans. Let’s not confuse the two. Freedom in Christ allows us to push a little beyond the conventional ways of pursuing God’s grace, so we may enjoy belonging to God even if we feel like we don’t belong anywhere else. And how powerful that freedom becomes when we exercise our feeble faith and discover Jesus welcomes us just because we came to him. Faith is a lot like a muscle that – when we exercise it, even as tiny as we think it is – it becomes bigger and stronger. Use your faith more to see beyond what you normally thought was possible. God will be happy you did. Amen.

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

At this table, we remember the life, death, and resurrection of our savior who bids us to go out sharing Good News and practice acts of forgiveness with ourselves, our neighbors, and our enemies. This table is for those who feel certain and those who feel frightened. This table is for those who feel filled by the Spirit and those who are seeking to be filled. This table does not belong to the Presbyterian Church, it belongs to Jesus Christ—and it is he who invites all to share in the bread and cup of peace, love, and life everlasting.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with You

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Our souls long to give you thanks and praise, O God,  
just as the deer longs to quench its thirst in springs of water.  
When reality itself was thirsty for you, Living God,  
you poured out the living water of your presence;  
through day and night, you called creation into being.  
We join our souls, hearts, and minds  
with the multitude of your creation  
singing praise and thanksgiving for your good works.  
We put our trust in you,  
and we give thanks to you, our help and our God.

From the depth of your compassion to the depth of our sin,  
you sent your Beloved, Jesus the Christ,  
to show your faithfulness every day,  
to sing your song of joy every night,  
to teach us your ways, O God of our life.  
When it appeared that your strength forgot him  
and our enemy Death claimed the victory,  
you were yet present  
and made the grave itself a spring of living water.  
We put our trust in you,  
and we give thanks to you, our help and our God.

In your righteousness, O God,  
pour out your strength upon us again.  
As we gather around this meal of bread and cup,  
draw us near to you  
and lift us up with the lightness of your Breath in us.  
Send forth your Spirit of light and truth to lead us,  
and bring us to the place you dwell in all people and places.  
Then let us worship in joy and gladness,  
in spirit and truth,  
in song and service,  
with all your people in every time and place.  
We put our trust in you,  
and we give thanks to you, our help and our God.

We pray through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
who prays with us as we say together:  
**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord Christ, you have

Poured out your Holy Spirit upon us  
in the sharing of this meal,  
So you have united with each other through you,  
and with all who magnify your name.  
Sustain us with your presence  
and keep us faithful to the end,  
singing with joy and confidence of the life eternal you give.

Amen.

**Announcements:**

**Calling All Women:** Wednesday at Noon this week the Dutch Treat Dames try for a second time to meet at the Cornerstone’s First Edition. (remember we had to postpone due to funeral services) Hope you can come!

Everyone have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

Thanks to all who could help us with the service and reception for Jo Priddy’s family.