**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, June 16, 2019, Trinity Sunday**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

God of Good News,  
we are reminded this day  
that our faith is always personal but never private.  
Bless our worship this day that we might leave this place  
to live out our faith in tangible ways that change lives.  
In all that we do, may we do it for your Gospel. **Amen**.

**Call to Confession**

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
in order to speak the truth in love,  
we are called to speak the hard truth of our sins.  
Let us together confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession (please see bulletin)**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,  
God has heard our plea for forgiveness  
and offers us mercy in abundant supply.  
Our sins have been forgiven!

Friends, Believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Psalm 8:1-9 (please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

O Lord, we lift up our souls to you.  
We trust in you, because you are always faithful to your covenant.  
You never leave your people alone.

So we pray for the people on our hearts who are in need.  
We pray for those who are sick,  
for those who suffer or struggle,  
and especially for those who are lonely or hopeless.  
We pray for those we have lifted up by name…  
O Lord, we put our hope in you.

Teach us to serve you, loving God,  
and make us faithful to your call.  
Open our hearts and minds to know your truth,  
and shape our actions to live into your covenant.  
Hold us gently, in your eternal mercy.  
Set us free from sin and look at us only with your love.

We dedicate our efforts, skills, and interests to your work,  
in this congregation and everywhere we go.  
Let our lives show your good news to the world, O Lord.  
Let us feed, serve, and lift up your people in need.  
Bind us to each other as your beloved people,  
called together in Jesus’ name.  
We pray together as he taught us, saying:  
*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Time Out For Teaching: Wisdom, Love and Truth**

This Fathers’ Day morning, we get to think about very lofty ideas. There are three readings – from the book of Proverbs, Paul’s letter to the Romans and our Gospel reading, once again, from John. There is a reason why John keeps showing up in our Bible readings over these past couple of weeks. John’s gospel speaks once again to certain aspects of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and we are in that very special time when we have just celebrated the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

This is essentially the last special liturgical day on the church calendar before we enter the “Ordinary Time” of this summer. We spend that “Ordinary Time” going on vacation, planning to attend weddings, and participating in special events. But that Ordinary Time gives us a chance to mark our days out, week by week, and trying to live into the gifts God’s Holy Spirit have given us – of wisdom, love and truth.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

1Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? 2On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; 3beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 4"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

22The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. 23Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. 24When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. 25Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth-26when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. 27When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, 28when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, 29when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, 30then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, 31rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

**Romans 5:1-5**

1Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**John 16:12-15**

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**Sermon: Superheroes With Kites**

Back in the dark ages, when I was about 5 years old, my Dad and I got a cheap, diamond-shaped kite from the dime store. You know the kind, crossed with lightweight dowel rods on the back of cheap plastic printed with a cartoon image. It was my first kite and I was excited to imagine riding my kite on the wind. The wind was high that day, but nothing like Tucumcari’s “light breezes.” Dad showed me what to do. He set it up on its edge on the grass, gave the string a little slack, and took off running into the wind. As he went, the kite began to rise up from the earth, and as he let out its tether, it flew higher and higher.

I felt ready to take the controls. It looked like a living creature on a long leash, dipping and shaking in the wind.

So Dad handed me the controls. And for a moment, I thought I had it. Suddenly, the air currents began to shift. At least that’s my excuse. To tell the truth, I got scared. So Dad instructed me to hold on tightly, and gently give it a little more slack. But, before I could choose the right action, I panicked. The string slipped from my little hands and I thought I had lost it.

I thought my new kite was forever gone. It was one of those super slo mo moments when you see what’s about to happen but it’s too late to act. But not for Dad. Like a superhero with catlike reflexes, his arm shot up into the air and grabbed the string and saved my kite from disappearing into the sky and over the trees a mile away. He saved my kite, with bare hands!

My Dad is my superhero, and not just because of that isolated kite incident.

Not everyone can say that about our fathers; but if you can, that’s a true blessing. Whether it’s your father, mother, friends or even strangers… we can all name someone who was/is a superhero. We look up to them, and maybe they seem larger than life, capable of doing what seems impossible to us. They help us with difficult problems, support us. They forgive us for things we didn’t think were forgivable. Don’t ever forget those people.

My Dad is not only a superhero with quick reflexes, capable of grabbing a kite out of the sky before it flies away. He is a superhero in wisdom too. And if I were to make my Dad truly proud, it wouldn’t necessarily be how catlike my own reflexes are. What would make him truly proud of me is if I live into the gift of wisdom I have received from him, my mom, all the great people I have known. That is not only a gift from people. It’s God’s gift that lives on forever in us. It’s God’s gift, given to us out of love.

The Book of Proverbs says we are being called to wisdom, in particular:

“’Does not wisdom call out?  
    Does not understanding raise her voice?  
At the highest point along the way,  
    where the paths meet, she takes her stand;  
beside the gate leading into the city,  
    at the entrance, she cries aloud:  
“To you, O people, I call out;  
    I raise my voice to all mankind.’”

This special section of Proverbs personifies the wisdom of God, using a feminine Greek name, “Sophia.” Sophia is calling to all of us to listen, and choose proper action. God’s Spirit-Sophia is the voice of ancient wisdom, older than our parents’ wisdom, for she has always been with God. And we can have it too, as long as we listen for God’s voice.

Sometimes I wish I had superpowers: catlike reflexes, capable of leaping buildings in a single bound. I wish I could run like the wind, and take swift action to prevent tragedies. I don’t have any of those things. But we do have other superpowers: God’s constant presence of wisdom, love and ability to discern the truth. Wisdom helps us pay attention to miracles around us, the ability to give others an experience of forgiveness, and the courage to overcome tragedies that befall us.

We value wisdom highly in the church. Spiritual wisdom is based on our heartfelt faith, seeking understanding of God’s will. We value wisdom here, for the root of the word “Presbyterian” is a Greek word for “Elder.” And, just to dispel any misunderstandings, Elders are called “Elders” not because we’re “Old!” Elders are chosen by God because of their wisdom and strength of faith.

It is a wise way to travel through this life, to follow the way of our holy superheroes. It is perhaps the best way to end this message, to end with the last few lines of Proverbs 8: “’Now then, my children, listen to me;  
    blessed are those who keep my ways.  
Listen to my instruction and be wise;  
    do not disregard it.  
Blessed are those who listen to me,  
    watching daily at my doors,  
    waiting at my doorway.  
For those who find me find life  
    and receive favor from the Lord.’”

In memory of your Dads, your father figures, your Lord God too, pursue the wisdom of God, and you shall find life and favor. Not only is this lofty pursuit good for you, you might just become someone else’s superhero. Amen.

**Receiving New Members, Susie and Raymond Martinez (p 12 of Apostles’ Creed)**

Elder: On behalf of the session I present Raymond and Susie Martinez, who have been received into the membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

Amy: You come to us as members of the one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized, and by which you have been nurtured. We are one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and service of this congregation, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we were baptized, claiming again the promises of God which are ours in our baptism.

(please stand if able) Hear these words from Holy Scripture:

Gal. 3:27, 28 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are in Christ Jesus.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God’s kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God’s kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you therefore, once again to reject sin, and to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, in which we were baptized.

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.**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**The Apostles' Creed**

You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? **I will, with God’s help.**

Ever-living God, guard your servants Raymond and Susie with your protecting hand, and let your Holy Spirit be with them forever. Lead them to know and obey your Word that they may serve you in this life and dwell with you forever in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Welcome our New Member!**

**Announcements**

In the Spirit of Trinity Sunday, we will be welcoming new members next Sunday, followed by a Fathers’ Day potluck supper. Be sure to be there and bring a dish to share at potluck.

Elders, we have a Session Meeting Tuesday, June 11th at 5:30PM in the Library.