**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, June 24, 2018, 5th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession Red Hymnal #282 “God Be Gracious Unto Me” Verses 1-4**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Red Hymnal #282 “God Be Gracious Unto Me” Verse 5**

Friends, Believe the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Psalm 9:9-20 (please see bulletin)**

**Prayers of the People**

We call on you with thanksgiving, Lord of heaven and earth,  
and we come before you with all our heart.  
We set you apart as the one deserving of all our praise,  
and we call on your love and faithfulness  
for the sake of your name.

We call to you, trusting that you will answer.  
We pray for all who are sick, suffering, or struggling;  
O Lord, increase the strength of those who are weak.

We pray for those who govern nations and hold power in the world;  
speak your words of wisdom and justice, and let there be ears to hear.

We pray for those whose gifts of beauty and skill  
give glory to your name and joy to others;  
guard them my your mercy.

Lord God most high, we pray for those who are weighed down  
by injustice, violence, or fear;  
lift up the lowly and bring forth justice.

We call on you for ourselves,  
in the midst of whatever trouble we may find ourselves in.  
Walk along with us and guide us in your service.  
O Lord, make good the purposes for which you have called us;  
we trust in your enduring love,  
made real for us in Jesus Christ,  
who taught us to pray, saying:

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Time out for Teaching: We Are Only Human**

We’re only Human

Jonathan loved David with all his soul, and loved his soul as his own

Do not accept the grace of God in vain; live our lives for God above reproach

Speaking frankly to the Corinthians with wide open hearts

Peace be Still

All of today’s readings are handling something having to do with our fragile and wounded selves. Of course, that would also be understandable that I would see that since I feel kind of fragile and vulnerable myself.

The Psalm cries out for justice for the weakest of the world, and that those in power would be brought to knowledge of their own mortality / humanity.

The story of Jonathan, David and Saul is a tragic one. Jonathan’s soul loves David. They have a covenant between them which means that they are bound together like family. And the story of Jonathan turns out to be tragic. But Saul becomes scared of David’s success and sends David further and further away in hopes that he not soak up all the adulation Saul wants for himself.

Paul’s story for the Corinthians is to remind them that they cannot accept the grace of God in vain, and he tells them that they have endured many hardships while trying to keep their integrity. He says how broken they are, how much they try to maintain their behavior so they are above reproach from anyone.

The fragility again comes to us in the fear of those disciples who cry out “don’t you care that we might perish?” and Jesus then commands the weather to be still.

Why do we talk about our fragility and tendency to get scared? Even the saints of Scripture get scared too. We might even sometimes feel embarrassed to be afraid and think we should be perfectly trusting of God. Easier said than done.

How does fear play a role in your own faith?

**Prayer for Illumination**

**1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16**

17:57On David’s return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”

18:1When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house. 3Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 5David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved.

10The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; 11and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David eluded him twice.

12Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. 13So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him a commander of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. 14David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him. 15When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him. 16But all Israel and Judah loved David; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

**2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says,   
     “At an acceptable time I have listened to you,   
          and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”   
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

11We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. 12There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. 13In return — I speak as to children — open wide your hearts also.

**Mark 4:35-41**

35On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

**Sermon: Kid Fears**

Back in the 1990s a music duo called the Indigo Girls came out with a song called “Kid Fears,” a very serious song about the things that worry us as adults – dark existential problems, questions we’d rather not face. And then in the refrain they sing, “What would you do for your kid fears?”

From a grown up point of view, most things that kids are afraid of seem really very small, so innocent, paltry, and maybe even very sweet. We see our grown up problems as much more complex and troubling. But then, as grown ups, many of us look down on children, maybe even romanticize childhood, “Oh those were the good old days, when we had kid-sized problems!” Fears like the monster under the bed, in the closet, or at the top of the stairs.

We know that there are no monsters under the bed, or anywhere else. But I wonder if there is a parallel between kid fears to the fears of the disciples in today’s reading from Mark. There we see the disciples have completely gone out of their minds with terror and Jesus is sleeping on a cushion at the stern of the boat (that’s in the back). “Do you not care that we are perishing?” the disciples cry as the boat tosses wildly on the waves, water filling the bottom. Jesus was, up to that moment, sleeping through the storm. By his rest, it probably seemed as though he would rather sleep than save them from drowning.

Their question sounds like a complaint: “Do you not care…?” but an essential part of this is the rest of the question, “…that WE are perishing?” “That we…” suggests that the disciples are scared not only for their own lives but for Jesus’ life too. Their question lumps Jesus in with the rest of the mortals. Even though Jesus has been performing healings, teaching parables, and even casting out a legion of demons, they are afraid for HIS safety?

Now, if anyone can sleep through a massive storm, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth can. Poured into human form, there Jesus slept. He whose Father gives order to chaos and creates life in a word is unfazed by the present nautical crisis.

Jesus seems so at peace on his cushion as everything appears to fall apart around him, and his closest friends terrified. I don’t think the problem was that He didn’t care about them. Maybe he wanted them to call for his help. I don’t think Jesus was afraid of the storm, even though he was in the same boat as they. And maybe had they realized that Jesus truly is the Son of God, maybe they’d be less afraid for themselves.

It happens to all of us doesn’t it? In our moments of panic we might be least likely to trust God, we might even find ourselves slipping into fears that from God’s point of view look even seem childish. Here in Jesus, we see that God is complete peace in the midst of chaos, unafraid of the world God made. And it is from God’s peace that Jesus rebukes the winds and says, “Peace! Be still!” Jesus is the source of the peace and powerful enough to call down even chaos. It could help us to remember the next time we feel panic, remember that God is not afraid, can’t even be afraid, for it just isn’t in God’s nature. And if God is not so afraid, then perhaps we have less reason to be so too. The German theologian Karl Barth once wrote that Jesus was not like some teachers who gave a prescription to follow for how to live. Jesus is the way to live. He is the way, our peace resting on a cushion, the Lord of the Sabbath in the eye of chaos. Jesus is our way – the one on whom we can rest our heads, the one to whom we can call out with our childish fears and who we discover when we cry out happens to be in the boat with us. Calm.

So remember Jesus when you are in a panic. Remember that he is right there with you. He knows what he’s doing. And even though it’s hard to tell as His little brothers and sisters, he’s got it all under control. Thanks be to God for that!! Amen.

**Announcements:**

Wednesday at Noon this week the Dutch Treat Dames return to the Cornerstone’s First Edition. Hope you can come!

**Service for Jo Priddy:** We are looking at Wednesday at 10:00AM for a service for Jo Priddy. Jo’s family does not request a meal but a space afterwards for people to visit and talk with the family a while. We ask that you please bring some small finger foods for a simple reception after the service. Those could be finger sandwiches, cookies, other small items.