**First Presbyterian Church Tucumcari**

**Worship 11:00AM**

**Sunday, March 3, 2019, Transfiguration of the Lord**

**Hymns: Accompanist, Marjorie McKenzie**

**RH 6 Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air**

**RH 272 Just As I Am, Without One Plea**

**RH 275 Amazing Grace**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

You are our Creator of the ends of the earth,

Even when we grow faint and weary, your power is

Inexhaustible. Let us on this chilly gray day

To rely on your power

To propel our joy and worship.

Strengthen us in faith today at this table of mercy

For serving you. Through our Lord and Savior, Amen.

**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 99 (please see bulletin)**

**Time Out for Teaching: Medical Equipment Mission**

How many of us have medical equipment in our homes that we no longer need? (crutches, wheelchairs, etc.?)

How many of us have needed something like that but were afraid to shell out the money for it?

These things are called DME – Durable Medical Equipment. When you get it from your doctor, you can’t really resell it or return it to them for a refund. You’re stuck with that equipment and you wonder whether you’re ever going to need it again so you stow it away someplace in the garage to gather dust.

Some people cannot afford to buy the medical equipment they have been told they need. Well, we have a storage of DME that can be loaned out to people in our community. Marjorie McKenzie, a professional Occupational Therapist is knowledgeable about this equipment and can help people find the right equipment for them – if we have it. It is a way that our church can provide others with tools for healing. It is also a way for us to recycle and reuse equipment that might never otherwise be used again.

What does this remind you of from the Scriptures?

How about every place in Scripture when Jesus is a healer. The healing miracles which took place in the New Testament were ways for God to declare His Kingdom is near. There is a point at which Jesus in the gospel stories stops healing people and sets his face towards Jerusalem and his imminent death. The healings he performed were a way for him to tell people that God had come near.

Our DME loan program is a way to participate in very practical ways in the healing of others. The fact that it is free, and comes through this church, is just one of the ways we too declare the presence of God’s kingdom. If you would like to get involved in this program or have donations of your own, please let me know and I’ll help you get hooked up!

**Prayer for Illumination**

**2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2**

**2**Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, **13**not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+3%3A12-4%3A2&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28839a)] was being set aside. **14**But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. **15**Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; **16**but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. **17**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18**And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

**1**Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. **2**We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

**Luke 9:28-36**

**28**Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A28-36&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25322a)] took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. **29**And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. **30**Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. **31**They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. **32**Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A28-36&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25326b)] they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. **33**Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A28-36&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25327c)] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. **34**While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. **35**Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen;[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A28-36&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25329d)] listen to him!” **36**When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

**Sermon: No Matter the Fog**

 No matter how terrifying the fog, writes author Jill Duffield, I am in the presence of the certain mercy of Go. And for that reason, she says, she shall never lose heart. The Transfiguration of Jesus involved some kind of holy fog, the disciples are enveloped in it and they are terrified. The fog is disorienting and blinding. Nothing could have prepared Peter, James and John for what they were about to encounter. It was disorienting from the very start, when Jesus shines brightly, alongside Moses and Elijah. And then, perhaps because of how disoriented they are, Peter grasps for something to say, suggesting booths to hold and keep each of these saintly men. Then comes the disorienting cloud, and the voice of the Lord speaks from inside the cloud which has engulfed them.

From the cloud – that disorienting and dark cloud – God’s voice came to them. This is probably the closest they have ever felt to heaven, and yet the voice of heaven tells them that Jesus is the Son of God. So, this cloud makes them feel close to God, but only to realize that they have been close to God all along in the authority and person of Jesus Christ. The voice of God said so. The voice of God said “This is my Son, Listen to Him!”

We forget sometimes just how close God is to us. Especially when we find ourselves in a fog of our own.

 Water vapor something we don’t get to feel often enough around here. But we know about how disorienting mist can be. How often, especially in winter, we can sense that heavy moisture in the air and we can nearly expect to look outside toward Tucumcari Mountain and it looks as though the top half of it has become overshadowed with rain clouds and mist. Driving in that kind of mist can be very off-putting too. Did you know that – according to drivers’ ed class – it is safer to drive in mist without your headlights on because they actually shine too much on the water vapor? Doesn’t happen often enough around here for us to have to remember that rule. It is necessary to trust our eyes, slow down, turn off the brights. The darkness and fog can make us nervous because we cannot see far. We can let our fears get the best of us, which can make it even harder for us to see. We dislike not knowing what’s waiting for us around the corner. We don’t like being in the dark, or disoriented. Maybe that’s why Peter thought building booths was a good idea. We want things sorted out, certain, sure, not feeling like the rug has been yanked from under us.

 The disciples have just undergone a disorienting experience.

When we have become disoriented to that degree, enveloped by the darkness and mist on a high mountaintop, and seeing visions of people long-dead, I would call that disorienting. What the disciples witnessed was completely new and different, in a sense, apart from the rest of the world as they knew it. The daily walk about with Jesus, the mundane life of discipleship, crowds pressing in on them, going in and out of buildings, witnessing miraculous healings. It was never boring, but it was still that workaday world full of familiar places and faces. It was the material world, and it was broken, sinful, hurting.

Whether it is a real misty day for you, or this entire chapter of your life is full of disorienting clouds, it shall lift. Maybe God is speaking to you, as God did to the disciples, inside your cloud?

A few years ago, heading home from Clovis – not too far away from that Ned Houk Park, I became blinded by a dust storm. I had to pull over the best I could, even though it was so dark, I couldn’t even see the shoulder of the highway. It was the middle of the day. It was the first time in a while that the weather had made me really nervous. The dust storm made it hard for me to tell direction; I was afraid to creep forward even a little in the car, for I couldn’t see the edge of the road. I just had to trust God that it would pass and that I would be okay if anyone crashed into me from behind.

Whether we are in a fog, blinded by dust storms, or just going through something that is completely bewildering and leaves us feeling lost, there is a sort of before and after effect that can either leave us traumatized or transformed.

When the cloud envelopes you, how will you choose to move through it? We get to choose how those moments will change us and our first option is to try and trust God, even when we cannot see very far ahead. The revealing, transfiguration of their friend Jesus set Him apart from the world in a whole new way. But it also did the same for Peter, James and John. They were now set apart, after the cloud lifts, with special instructions and an out of this world experience. The disorientation turned into a new orientation. The call to listen to Jesus, straight from heaven.

Friends, we all get overcome by the fog. We can be assured that even though it is disorienting, God is there with us. And in those times of disorientation, all He wants us to do is to Listen to Jesus. The authority of Heaven and earth is in our midst, to transform us, not traumatize us. Thanks be to God we can trust him in the fog. Amen.

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

Friends, this is the place where heaven and earth meet. This is the place where encounter the living God. This table belongs to the Lord – who died and rose for us. All who seek God’s healing and holy presence are invited to this table of Jesus Christ.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**May the God of mountaintops be with you!

**And also with you!**People of God, love the One who would make your hearts a place of holiness and hope.
**We open ourselves to God, who raises us to new life.**God’s beloved children, sing to the One who will not let you stumble on your way to salvation.
**We rejoice in God, who is foolish enough to save us from ourselves.**

From the very beginning,
Vulnerable God,
all creation has sung your glory:
goodness laughing from the mountaintops,
beauty echoing in every valley.
You shaped us from creation,
your Word calling us by name,
your Spirit breathing life into us.
You set us free to live with you
in that garden of delightful wonders,
but we believed our thoughts
were better than yours.
We shaped idols to look like our desires,
and placed them in such a way
that we would not see you.
There is nothing that stays hidden from you,
so you saw how foolish we were.
Sin muddled our minds
so that we could not listen
to the prophets you sent,
so Jesus came to show us
your love which had never abandoned us.

With those who stood at the foot of Sinai,
with those who were astounded in the temple,
with those who have become foolish by following you,
with all your children of every time and in every place,
we lift our songs to your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Architect of creation.
The heavens, the earth and everything you made
overflow with your gracious joy.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who walks on to Jerusalem.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, God of grace and glory,
and blessed is Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.
When we insisted on worshipping
every petty and pretty idol,
he came to show us exactly
what your love looks like.
When we looked for a sign
that God is with us,
he died on the cross,
and was raised to new life.

As we seek the strength to follow your Child,
as we long to be as obedient as he was,
we would speak of that mystery called faith:

**Christ became weak,
so death would lose its power;
Christ looked foolish,
so we might become wise enough to believe.
Christ will come again in glory,
to bring us home to God.**

Pour out your Spirit
upon the gifts on this Table,
Ever Faithful God.
Here, where creation
yearns for comfort,
speak hope.
Here, where your children
are broken, longing for life,
speak healing.
Here, where the bread
fills us with life and peace,
where the cup refreshes
our weary spirits,
send us forth to offer ourselves
in all those ways of service
the world finds foolish.

We pray for the needs of the world,

For peace among nations

For healing of those who are in our prayers this week

For hope to the lonely and bread for the hungry.

And when our journey has ended,
when we are gathered around that Feast
which awaits us in that place called home,
we will join our words and our hearts,
honoring you with praise and song,
In Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray saying,

“Our Father, who art in heaven…” Amen.

**Words of Institution, Distribution of the Elements**

**Prayer after Communion**

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

**Announcements:**

Don’t forget to set your clocks an hour earlier, as Daylight Saving Time will begin on Saturday night. Spring Forward!