

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



Worship
October 31st
Reformation Day

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Creator,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.
**We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.
We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.
We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.
Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.
Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need.
Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,
forgives your sins for ☩ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more.
Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.
Amen.

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Transforming God,

We give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit, who breathes new life into your church in every age. Give us the courage to be leaders of the reformation, calling our neighbors into courageous relationships, that we might be the presence of Christ for one another. May we mutually change and challenge each other, that we might continue to grow together in our understanding of your divine gospel of freedom.

Amen.

First Reading: Romans 3:19-31

Now we know that what the Law says is said to those under the Law. Therefore, let every mouth be silenced, and let all of humankind be open to God's judgment. This is because we are not justified in the sight of God by keeping the Law: law only makes us aware of our sin.

But now the justice of God has been manifested apart from the Law, even though both Law and prophets bear witness to it; the justice of God works through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. There are no exceptions: everyone has sined; everyone falls short of the glory of God. Yet everyone has also been undeservedly justified by the gift of God, through the redemption wrought in Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a propitiatory sacrifice, for the atonement of all who have faith in Christ's blood. And God did so to manifest divine justice because God showed forbearance by remitting sins committed in the past, in order to demonstrate divine justice in the present - so that the Most High might be both a just judge and the One who justifies those who believe in Jesus.

What room is there then for boasting? It is ruled out. In what law do we boast - the law of works? No: only the law of faith. We maintain that one is justified by faith - apart from keeping the Law. Does God belong to the Jews alone? Isn't God also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of course the Gentiles too. And because there is only one God, it is the same God who will justify Jew and Gentile through the same faith. Do we then render the Law null and void? Not at all - we give the Law its true value!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength,
who from of old has helped us in our distress.
**Therefore we fear nothing -
even if the earth should open up in front of us
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea,**
even if the earth's waters rage and foam
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.

**There's a river whose streams
gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.**
God is in its midst, it will never fall -
God will help it at daybreak.
**Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,
God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.**

YHWH Sabaoth is with us -
our stronghold is the God of Israel!

**Come, see what YHWH has done -
God makes the earth bounteous!**
God has put an end to war,
from one end of the earth to the other,
breaking bows, splintering spears,
and setting chariots on fire.
**"Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted upon the earth."**

YHWH Sabaoth is with us -
our stronghold is the God of Israel!

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John the eighth chapter:

Jesus said to those who believed in him,
“If you live according to my teaching
you really are my disciples;
then you’ll know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”

“We’re descendants of Sarah and Abraham,” they replied. “Never have we been the slaves of anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You’ll be free’?”

Jesus answered them,
“The truth of the matter is,
everyone who lives in sin
is the slave of sin.
Now a slave doesn’t always remain part of a household;
an heir, however, is a member of that house forever.
So if the heir - the Only Begotten - makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

Word of God for the People of God,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day: The Church’s One Foundation - UMH 545

The hymn of the day will be hummed only. You are invited to use this time for quiet contemplation, using the words on the screen if you wish.

A New Creed - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together:

We are not alone

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our redeemer and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

If you have any joys, concerns, or prayer requests to share, please type them into the comment section of the livestream so that we may lift them up together as a community.

Prayers of the People

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly embody your radical love for all people, that we might create a world full of grace, truth, and love.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your creation, for mountains and foothills, streams and rivers, cities and homesteads and neighborhoods. Inspire us to live in harmony with your creation, and to hold accountable those people and institutions who neglect the vulnerable members of your creation.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who long for healing of body, mind, and spirit. We pray especially for Bessie Asai, as she continues hospice care in her home. Send strength and resilience to all those who work in health care as this pandemic continues, that they might continue to be a source of healing and comfort for those in need.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Give each of us the heart of a student, that we might be lifelong learners, eager to grow more in our understanding of you, one another, and the world in which we live.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation, especially Martin Luther and John Wesley, whose missions we continue in the life of our church. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Your gifts to the church make it possible for our ministry to continue, and we are grateful for your generosity. If you are able to give at this time, you may either send a check through your personal online banking using bill pay, or mail a physical check to our office at 1140 Tucker Road Hood River, OR 97031.

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept these gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The word 'right' is bolded in the original image.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command...

...To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forevermore.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language you are most familiar with - the language of your heart.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Instructions for Communion

This table of bread and wine has now been made ready.
So come to this table,
You who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here long
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come and eat. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

Communion Distribution

Prayer after Communion

God of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Teacher.
Amen.

Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)

Blessing

The blessing of our Triune God,
Creator of Love, Redeemer of our Hearts, and Sustainer of our Lives,
✠ abide within you, now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: A Mighty Fortress - ELW 504

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

- **Membership Inventory & Engagement Survey - Deadline November 1st**
 - A congregational email was sent out containing our Membership Inventory & Engagement Survey. This survey will help us collect updated information for our upcoming directory update, as well as provide ample opportunities for you to reflect on your experiences with Spirit of Grace and consider what spiritual engagement you are hoping for in the future. The survey can be accessed online here, or you can pick up a paper copy at the church office:
<https://forms.gle/nj7Ymf7oQPftMkyn7>
 - We have had 20 submissions so far, which is a great start! We ask that all submissions be turned in by November 1st. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out - we are happy to help!

- **2022 Budget Requests - Deadline November 1st**
 - If you are part of a group or committee at Spirit of Grace that anticipates needing money from the budget for the upcoming year, now is the time to begin considering what you will need money for and how much you would like to request be allocated for your group. All budget requests must be submitted to the finance committee (Tom Hart - roadio55@hotmail.com) by November 1st.

- **New Member Class - November 7 & 14**
 - For those interested in becoming a member of Spirit of Grace, we will be offering a New Member class this November! The class will be offered in two parts, following worship on November 7th and 14th, and should last about an hour per day. If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing membership, or if you are interested in helping out with these membership classes, please contact Pastor Miranda (spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com) for more information.

- **New Member Sunday - November 21st**
 - On the final Sunday in our liturgical year, which this year falls on the third Sunday in November, we will welcome our new members into our community! Be sure to join us for worship on November 21st for this celebratory occasion.

Spirit of Grace ELCA/UMC

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Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

M-W 9-12, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Jennifer Fowler, Office Assistant

Mon 9:30-2, Wednesday 9:00-2, Thursday 9:00-2

office@hoodriverchurch.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1