

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



November 21st
Christ the King Sunday
New Member Sunday

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.

Almighty God,

You sent your Son to live and dwell among us, that we might see how your almighty power and radical love is incompatible with our corrupt systems of oppression and injustice. May we turn our hearts once more to Christ, as we strive to enact your Kingdom of love and justice on this earth.

Amen.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched,
Thrones were set up, and the one who sat there
was the Ancient of Days,
whose clothing was snow white,
with a head of hair as white as wool;
whose throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.
A stream of fire surged forth,
flowing from the Ancient One's presence,
with tens of thousands ministering,
and hundreds of thousands standing in attendance.
The court was convened,
and the books were opened.

I gazed into the visions of the night once again,
and I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,
one who looked human,
but somehow more than human.
This One came to the Ancient One
and was led into the divine Presence.
Thus was conferred sovereignty,
glory and dominion,
and all peoples, nations and languages
became this One's subjects.
This sovereignty is an eternal Sovereignty
which will never pass away,
nor will this dominion ever be destroyed.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 93

YHYH reigns, robed in splendor!
You are robed, YHWH, and armed with strength.
The world stands firm and cannot be moved;
**your throne stands firm from ages past;
from eternity you exist.**
The seas are shouting, YHWH –
the seas raise their voices;
the seas shout with pounding waves.
**Stronger than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightiest of all is YHWH!**
Your reign was made known from of old;
the holy ones praise you in your Temple,
YHWH, for days without end.

Gospel: John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel according to John the eighteenth chapter.

So Pilate re-entered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. “Are you the King of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?”

Pilate replied, “Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world.”

Pilate said, “So you’re a King?”

Jesus replied, “You say I am a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose - to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day: Time to Grow – Lowry-King Songbook

Affirmation of Baptism & Welcome of New Members

*Liturgies from Augsburg Fortress and the NW Synod of WI Resource Center,
combined and adapted for this occasion by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller.*

Those making affirmation of their baptism may gather at the font.

Pastor: We are gathered here this morning to welcome these new members into our community of faith, which is Spirit of Grace Church. We are not a building, but a gathered family of God. We are siblings in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection, and called to live out our faith in this world. Today, we welcome you as members of this particular family in the larger body of Christ.

And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Spirit of Grace church? If so, please answer, "We do."

New Members: We do.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these children of God, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask the congregation to stand and join in confessing our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The minister addresses those making public affirmation of their baptism.

Pastor: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

New Members: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor: Having together confessed our faith in the Triune God, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these children of God and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor: As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News and live out his message in every aspect of our lives. We encourage you to embrace that call through your involvement in our church and our local community.

We welcome you as siblings in Christ, and thank God for this opportunity to serve God and one another.

We welcome you as children of God, growing closer to God and each other through worship and learning, laughing and playing.

We welcome you as fellow workers in God's kingdom, inviting you to grow with us in our faith, reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

May the God to whom we belong equip us for every good work that we do together in the name of the Divine.

New Members: We welcome and accept your invitation and commit ourselves to using our time and talents for the good of the congregation. We will strive to live as Christ taught us, and promise to work with you to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The assembly is invited to extend their hands towards our new members in prayer and blessing.

Stir up in Alicia and James the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.
Amen.

Pastor: Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ!

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism!
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the Good News to all the world.**

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.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our local community such as Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, FISH Food Bank, and The Next Door. Renew and strengthen them in their work.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to show us the way of true justice. We weep with all those who have been denied justice in our human systems of corruption and oppression. We pray for the courage to stand with the oppressed, demanding life and liberation for all of God's people.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Receive these prayers and those in our hearts known only to you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior,
Amen.

Offering

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

Preface - TFWS 2257-a

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...
...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus - TFWS 2257-b

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...
...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation - TFWS 2257-c

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...
...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Great Amen - TFWS 2257-d

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

Blessed Jesus,
at this table, you have been for us both host and meal.
Now send us forth to extend our tables
and to share your gifts
until that day when all feast together
at your heavenly banquet.
Amen.

Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)

Blessing

May our Triune God, the beginning and the end,
who has written your name in the book of life,
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace
from this time forth and forevermore.
Amen.

Sending Song: Soon and Very Soon - ELW 439

Dismissal

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Triune God.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

- **UMC Fall Charge Conference - 5:30 pm on November 28th**
 - On November 28th, Rev. Tim Overton-Harris, District Superintendent of the UMC Oregon-Idaho Conference, will be visiting Spirit of Grace in person for our annual Fall Charge Conference. This is an opportunity for Rev. Tim to check in with us and hear about the life and ministry of our congregation. While attendance is not required, any member of Spirit of Grace is welcome and encouraged to attend in order to share their experiences from the past two years with Rev. Tim. Anyone who volunteers or serves in a leadership capacity at Spirit of Grace is highly encouraged to attend as well, in order to share a more full picture of our life and ministry here in Hood River. If you are interested in participating, but unable to attend in person for any reason, there will be an option to participate via Zoom as well.
- **Advent Midweek Worship Volunteers**
 - Our Advent Midweek Worship series will take place on Zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesdays throughout Advent, beginning on December 1st. Pastor Miranda is looking for one volunteer each week to serve as a reader. If you are planning on attending and interested in serving in this capacity, please email Pastor Miranda (spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com) to let her know.

Spirit of Grace
ELCA-UMC

1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031

541-386-3993

www.hoodriverchurch.org

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