

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



December 5th, 2021
Advent II

Prelude

Welcome

Advent Litany

We come to know you, Holy One, as Wisdom Incarnate, as Flickering Flame, as Spirit of Life, as Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, Enfleshed.

You come to us as the Stranger, and the Strange.

Often we do not recognize you.

Often we turn away from your gifts and your demands.

Yet you come to us in the Wilderness, in the Impossible Made Possible, in Silence and Singing and Sighs Too Deep for Words.

You abhor dominance, mastery, fear, and control.

You are made known to us in Vulnerability, and Courage, and Divesting from the Powers of Empire.

We come to you this Advent in need, with longing, in pain, captive to fear, desiring a more just world, a more livable life for all of us, for the earth, for every living thing caught and held in this inescapable network of mutual interdependence we call this one wild and precious Life.

Advent II - Peace

The Peace of God-With-Us does not come as law and order, or enforcement and control.

Peace cannot be imposed from on high. Peace cannot be commanded.

The Peace of God-With-Us is chaotic, wild, unruly, unpredictable.

The Peace of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complicity.

Peace is gestating in the darkness; it comes unexpectedly.

Peace invites our expectation, and demands our participation.

Prepare the way, for peace with justice.

May Peace be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Come Now, O Prince of Peace - ELW 247
verse 1, sung three times

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.
God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
† your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
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.

God of peace,

In a world that tells us the path towards peace is silence and complacency, you came to earth to embody human form - to show us how to take up space in this world with love and conviction. This Advent season, may we remember that peace is not achieved by making ourselves small. Give us the courage to take up space as we stand firm in the message of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love with which you have entrusted us.

Amen.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Well, pay attention!

I am sending my Messenger
to prepare the way for me;
the One you seek will suddenly come to the Temple,
the Messenger of the Covenant whom you long for will come,
says YHWH Omnipotent.

But who can endure the day of that Coming?

Who can stand firm when that One appears?

That day will be like a smelter's fire,
a launderer's soap.

The One will preside as refiner and purifier,
purifying the Children of Levi,
refining them like gold and silver –
then they will once again
make offerings to YHWH in righteousness.

Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem
will be pleasing to YHWH as they were in former days,
in years long past.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel –
for you have visited and redeemed your people.
**You have raised up a mighty savior for us
of the house of David**
as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones,
the prophets of ancient times:
**salvation from our enemies
and from the hands of all our foes.**
You have shown mercy on our ancestors
by remembering the Holy Covenant
you made with them,
the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham,
granting that we,
delivered from the hands of our enemies,
might serve you without fear,
**in holiness and justice,
in the presence of all our days.**
And you, my child, will be called
the prophet of the Most High,
for you'll go before our God
to prepare the way for the Promised One,
**giving the people knowledge of salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.**
Such is the tender mercy of our God,
who from on high
will bring the Rising Sun to visit us,
**to give light to those who live
in darkness and the shadow of death
and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.**

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene. In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the wilderness. John went through the entire region of Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

“A herald’s voice in the desert, crying,
‘Make ready the way of our God;
clear a straight path.
Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.
The twisted paths will be made straight,
and the rough road smooth –
and all humankind will see the salvation of God.’”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding - ELW 246

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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make all of your ministers, ordained and lay leaders alike, confident in your message of liberation, that their words and our lives may bear witness to your grace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant all people healing and wholeness.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. When we see violence and injustice in our world, give us the courage of Christ, that we may stand firm through conflict as we seek your peace for all.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

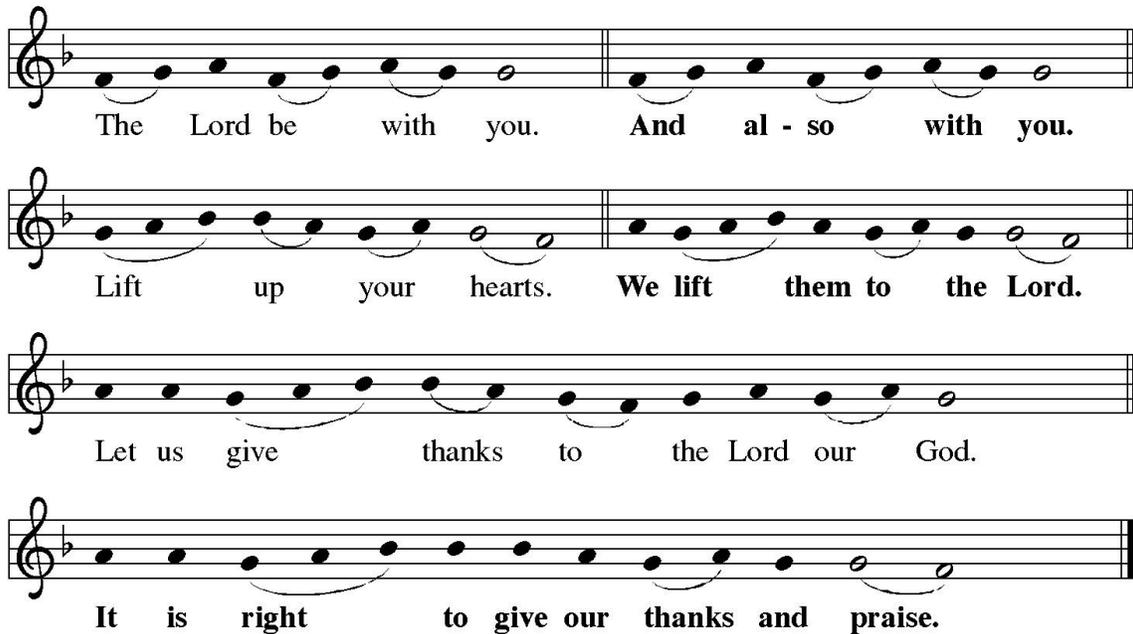
Amen.

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving Liturgy



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.

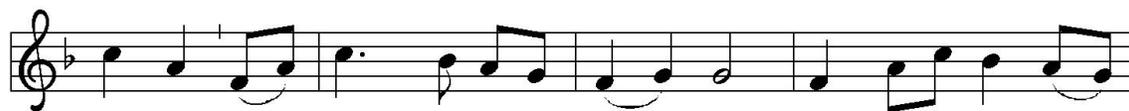
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.**

Communion Instructions & Distribution

Prayer after Communion

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)

Blessing

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope and love
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, for whom we wait.
Amen.

Sending Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - UMH 196

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Spirit of Grace
ELCA UMC

1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031
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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

Announcements

Advent Midweek Worship

You are invited to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm via Zoom this Advent as we explore the ways our bodily senses form our faith and shape our spirituality. **This week we will be exploring the sense of Touch!** Each service will include music and readings, as well as an embodied practice, followed by a time of fellowship. Log in information can be found on our website at hoodriverchurch.com beginning the week of November 28th.

Christmas Tree Decorating

Thank you to Alan Yenne and Craig Terry for the donation of a Christmas Tree for our Sanctuary! All are invited to join us on December 19th after worship as we prepare for Christmas by decorating the tree. Cookies, Coffee, and Cocoa will also be served, depending on our county's COVID numbers.

December Newsletter

Our December Newsletter was sent out at the end of last week. Be sure to look through it for important updates and announcements about the life of our congregation! It will be posted on our website later this week, and printed copies are available in the Narthex.

Happy Hands Holiday Sale

The Happy Hands Holiday sale continues after worship today! If you are with us in person, take some time to look over these handmade items and consider them for gifts this holiday season.

Attributions

Advent Wreath litany - enfleshed, 2018, Rev. Anna Blaedel

Come Now, O Prince of Peace - Geonyong Lee (no date given)

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! - Public domain

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - Public domain

Confession & Forgiveness, Prayers of Intercession, and Communion Liturgy from Sundays & Seasons, 2021
Augsburg Fortress



Christmas Eve Worship

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
PROVIDED BY

Spirit of Grace

A LUTHERAN - METHODIST
COOPERATIVE CHURCH

In the interest of everyone's safety, all in attendance
will be required to wear a face mask. Full vaccination
against COVID-19 is highly encouraged.

A live-stream of the service can also be accessed at
facebook.com/hoodriverchurch

7:00 PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
1140 TUCKER ROAD
HOOD RIVER, OR