

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



February 27th, 2022
Transfiguration Sunday

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come and follow Christ
to the places where the heavens and earth meet.

The Holy is so near.

When we are weary or afraid,

when we question the path ahead,

Christ reveals the Sacred with us.

We never go alone.

As close as our own breath,

God is here.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates us,
who redeems us,
who calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.
We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.
Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:
In ✝ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven,
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children 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.

Mysterious One, as we draw near to the season of Lent, you fill us where we are empty, preparing us for the journey. Lingering in your presence, we are nourished by the remembrance of those who came before us. We are encouraged by our present companions on the journey. We are inspired by your promises of what's to come. As we gather, may we hear your voice among us, whispering words of assurance and calling us to courage. Thanks be to you, O God.

Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

As Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying the two tablets of the Covenant, he was not aware that the skin on his face was radiant from speaking with God. When Aaron and the other Israelites saw Moses, they were afraid to approach him because of the radiance of the skin on his face. Only when Moses called to them did Aaron and the leaders of the community come near, and Moses spoke to them.

Later, all the Israelites gathered around, and Moses gave them the instructions he had received from YHWH on Mount Sinai. When he finished speaking to them, Moses put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses entered the presence of YHWH, he would remove the veil until he came out again, and when he would come out and tell the Israelites what had been commanded, they would see that the skin on his face was radiant. Then he would put the veil over his face again until he went in to speak with God.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99

YHWH reigns,
and the nations tremble!
You who are enthroned on the cherubim,
let the earth quake!
**YHWH is even higher than Zion,
and exalted above all the nations;**
let them praise your Name,
Great and Awesome One:

“You are holy and mighty,
**a Leader who loves justice,
who established honesty, justice, and righteousness in Israel!**
You have done this!
We exalt you, YHWH, YHWH,
and we worship at your footstool
You are holy!

**Miriam, Moses, and Aaron were among them,
and Samuel too was among those who invoked the Name;
they called on YHWH
and God answered them.**

YHWH spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they obeyed the decrees and statutes God gave them.

**YHWH, YHWH, you answered them.
For them, you became God the Forgiver
even though you punished their evil deeds.**

“We exalt you, YHWH our God,
and we worship at your holy mountain;
for you, YHWH our God, are holy!”

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 9th chapter.

About eight days after saying this, Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up onto the mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, his face changed in appearance and the clothes he wore became dazzlingly white. Suddenly two people were there talking with Jesus – Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of the prophecy that Jesus was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

Peter and the others had already fallen into a deep sleep, but awakening, they saw Jesus' glory – and the two people who were standing next to him. When the two were leaving, Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, how good it is for us to be here! Let's set up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!” Peter didn't really know what he was saying.

While Peter was speaking, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and the disciples grew fearful as the others entered it. Then from the cloud came a voice which said, “This is my Own, my Chosen One. Listen to him!”

When the voice finished speaking, they saw no one but Jesus standing there. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone.

Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day: Jesus on the Mountain Peak

ELW 317

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The mountains and valleys sing your praise. Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape: bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers, flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You love justice and establish equity. Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns. Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience. Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Heal those who are in distress. Give patience to those waiting for answers. Grant hope to those who have reached the limits of treatment. Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering & Offertory Music

Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Burying of the Alleluia

When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified.

Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.

Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross.

Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.

Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me."

Sometimes we must let go of our Alleluia.

For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia."

Sometimes we must let go of our Alleluia.

At Easter, we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing, "Christ is risen."

In God's time, we will find our Alleluia!

Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer,
it is our joy to sing and say "Alleluia"
as response to your conquering sin and death.
Now, during the days of Lent
we say farewell to "Alleluia"
so that we may take it up anew on Easter.
Amen.

Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)

Sending Song: We Are Marching in the Light of God ELW 866

Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

As we leave this place of Sacred gathering,
remember that God does not abide in this place alone.
On mountain tops and in the valleys,
on the long plains of ordinary life,
there is no where we can go
that God does not go with us.
Always and everywhere, God is near.
Go in peace, with Christ, into a weary world.
Share this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Spirit of Grace
ELCA-UMC

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Church Office Hours
Closed on Fridays

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
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Announcements

March Newsletter

If you have any submissions to be included in the March Newsletter, be sure to send them to the office by Tuesday, February 28th.

Ash Wednesday - March 2nd

Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00pm on March 2nd. This service will be in-person and live-streamed to our Facebook page. However, for those who are unable to join us for in-person worship, Pastor Miranda will be at the church building throughout the day and available to give ashes and a blessing to anyone who stops by.

Reckoning with Racism - Congregational Conversation

Our Reckoning with Racism Team, which has been meeting twice a month since October, has been hard at work learning about the history of racism in Oregon and discovering the hidden stories of our land and community. While this work is far from complete, we are eager to bring the rest of the congregation into this important work!

This Sunday, all are invited to join us on Zoom for a presentation and discussion of our work thus far. We will begin at 12:00pm, in order to give enough time for everyone to return home and get settled after worship. This virtual gathering will last around 90 minutes as we share the history of the land we now reside upon, watch a video about the history of Black exclusion and discrimination in Oregon, discuss how these stories impact and intersect with our own life and experiences, and consider what moves we are being called to make in the future. Come ready to learn and share your own stories and experiences of living in Hood River so that our story can be even more full and complete!

Join us at 12:00pm this Sunday, February 27th on Zoom via this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/98747516270>

Attributions

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Burying the Alleluia Litany - discipleship ministries UMC, adapted by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Dismissal - adapted by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller, based on texts from enfleshed and augsburg fortress