

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



March 13th, 2022  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

---

Prelude

Welcome

An Interfaith Call to Peace for Ukraine

Oh Divine,  
**most mighty, most merciful, our sacred stories tell us  
that you help and save your people.**  
**You are the fortress: may there be no more war.**  
**You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger.**  
**You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair.**  
**Oh Divine, most majestic, most motherly, grant us your life. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Call to Worship

The Beloved gathers us under Her wings,  
**longing to protect us from violence.**  
The Beloved stays up with us all night,  
**She holds us close when we are afraid.**  
Mothering God, victims of violence need protection!  
**Shield us from forces of domination.**  
Lead us into a life of mutual care.  
**Come, let us worship the Holy, our Guard and our Guide.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of God,  
who makes a way in the wilderness,  
walks with us,  
and guides us in our pilgrimage  
**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:  
we have not trusted your promises,  
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,  
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,  
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!  
Forgive us and turn us again to you.  
Teach us to follow in your ways,  
assure us again of your love,  
and help us to love our neighbor.  
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
the Word draws near to you,  
and all who call out to God shall be saved.  
In Jesus, † God comes to you again and again  
and gathers you under wings of love.  
In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.  
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.  
**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.

Compassionate Advocate, there are so many we long to protect -- victims of war, trans children, animals seeking safety in climate collapse. We long for voting rights for Black people to be protected. We long for workers to be protected from exploitation. We yearn for enterprises and organizations perpetuating abuse to crumble. Teach us Your ways of resistance and liberation. Bless our righteous anger towards the work.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these events, the word of YHWH came to Abram in a vision:

“Fear not, Abram!

I am your shield;

I will make your reward very great.”

Abram said, “But my Sovereign, My God, what good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace? My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damascus. Since you have given me no offspring,” Abram continued, “an attendant in my house will be my heir.”

Then the word of YHWH came to Abram and said, “This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood.” Then God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants.” Abram believed YHWH, and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.”

YHWH then said to Abram, “I am YHWH who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.”

Abram asked, “Sovereign God, how am I to know that I will possess it?”

God answered Abram, “Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. Abram brought all of these, cut them in half, and placed each half opposite the other – except for the birds, which he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell over Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking brazier and a flaming torch appeared, which passed between the halves of the sacrifices. On that day YHWH made this covenant with Abram: "To your descendants I give this land, from the River of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

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

Psalm 27

Love is my light and  
    my salvation,  
    whom shall I fear?  
**Love is the strength of**  
    **my life,**  
**Of whom shall I be afraid?**

When fears assail me,  
    rising up to accuse me,  
Each one in turn shall be seen  
    in Love's light.  
**Though a multitude of demons**  
    **rise up within me,**  
    **my heart shall not fear.**  
**Though doubts and guilt do battle,**  
    **yet shall I remain confident.**

One thing have I asked of Love,  
    that I shall ever seek:  
That I might dwell in the  
    Heart of Love  
    all the days of my life,  
**To behold the Beauty of my Beloved,**  
    **and to know Love's Plan.**

For I shall hide in Love's heart  
    in the day of trouble,  
As in a tent in the desert,  
Away from the noise of my fears.  
**And I shall rise above**  
    **my struggles, my pain,**  
**Shouting blessings of gratitude**  
    **in Love's heart**

**And singing melodies of praise  
to my beloved.**

Hear, O my Beloved,  
when I cry aloud,  
be gracious and answer me!  
You have said, "Seek my face."  
**My heart responds,**  
**"Your face, my Beloved, do I seek;**  
**hide not your face from me."**

Do not turn from me,  
You who have been my refuge.  
**Enfold me in your strong arms,**  
**O Blessed One.**  
Though my father and mother  
may not understand me,  
You, my Beloved, know me and love me.

**Teach me to be love,**  
**as You are Love;**  
**Lead me through each fear;**  
Hold my hand as I walk through  
valleys of illusion each day,  
That I may know your Peace.

**I believe I shall know the**  
**Realm of Heaven,**  
**of Love, here on Earth!**

Call upon the Beloved,  
be strong and trust  
in the heart's courage.  
**Trust in the power of Love;**  
**the Beloved's unconditional and**  
**everlasting love for you.**

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, "You need to get out of town, and fast. Herod is trying to kill you."

Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox, 'Today and tomorrow, I'll be casting out devils and healing people, and on the third day I'll reach my goal.' Even with all that, I'll need to continue on my journey today, tomorrow, and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except in Jerusalem.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her babies under her wings – yet you refuse me! So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!'"

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth – ELW 735

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.*

*(sung by Pastor)  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place,  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving, especially those in our congregation who are unable to be with us in person this day.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Hear the cries of those in distress. Send your Spirit of comfort and peace to hold them close and keep them safe. We especially pray for all those who suffer due to the violence inflicted by Russian forces. Grant protection to those in the Ukraine and surrounding areas, and guide world leaders in their peace-making efforts.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*(sung by Pastor)*

*Lord, listen to your children praying,*

*Lord, send your Spirit in this place,*

*Lord, listen to your children praying,*

*Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

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

*At this time, if you are willing and able, please consider giving to Spirit of Grace Church to support our ongoing ministry. Checks can be mailed to 1140 Tucker Road, Hood River OR, 97031. Online Donations can be made through the link below:*  
[Spirit of Grace Church](#)

*In this time of global crisis, please also consider giving to either of these disaster response organizations as they direct their efforts towards those in Ukraine and Eastern Europe:*

[Lutheran Disaster Response, Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)

[UMCOR, International Disaster Response and Recovery](#)

## 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.**

**Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)**

Sending Song:

Take, O, Take Me As I Am – ELW 814

Blessing

You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.  
Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
✠ bless you this day and always.  
**Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Spirit of Grace*  
ELCA UMC

1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031  
541-386-3993  
[www.hoodriverchurch.org](http://www.hoodriverchurch.org)

**Church Office Hours**  
**Closed on Fridays**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**  
M-W 9-12, or by appointment  
[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Fowler, Office Assistant**  
Mon 9:30-2, Wednesday 9:00-2, Thursday 9:00-2  
[office@hoodriverchurch.com](mailto:office@hoodriverchurch.com)

**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
Tuesday 10-1

## Announcements

**March Newsletter** will be posted on our website this week, with many important updates and reflections in this season of Lent.

**Worship Team** will be meeting this Tuesday at 9am to begin planning our Holy Week and Easter services! Information regarding services and times will be sent out next week.

**SPRC** will be meeting next Sunday after worship. Among our regular business, we will also begin planning for our Safe Sanctuary Sunday on April 24th.

### **Grounding - Midweek Lenten Worship & Study**

On Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 9th, we will gather on Zoom at 6:30pm for a time of worship and study. We will begin with midweek worship using the Holden Evening Prayer service by Marty Haugen. Following the service, those who choose to stay can participate in a time of study using the book "A Grounded Faith: Reconnecting with Creator and Creation in the Season of Lent." This book has daily readings, reflections, and invitations for each day in Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday. Those interested in participating in this Lenten Study will be asked to obtain a copy and commit to doing the daily readings. On Wednesday evenings, we will come together to discuss what we have each read, experienced, and wondered about in the past week, and find ways to connect and integrate what we are learning into our own faith practices. A Grounded Faith can be ordered from Barclay Press online in either digital or printed format.

## Attributions

Call to Worship & Prayer of the Day- copyright enfleshed, 2022

Confession & Forgiveness, Prayers of the People, Blessing and Dismissal - copyright augsburg fortress, 2022

Psalm Translation - from *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness* by Nan C. Merrill