

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



March 20th, 2022
Third 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

Life abundant calls to us:
Come alive! Come alive!
To be alive - fully awake in this world rich in beauty and wonder
This is the invitation of God
Though death and destruction will have their way
A table is being set for all who desire to feast on Love
Let us not settle for days that are dry and brittle with despair
Christ liberates us from evil and leads us to life abundant

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.

Holy One, we recognize these lives of ours are so vulnerable, so precious, so deeply entangled with one another. We long to protect them; to protect ourselves and our families and our planet. In our efforts, do not let us be so consumed by fear that we turn to destruction or hardheartedness for security. Keep our hearts tender to one another and lead us onto paths of peace with justice.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

“All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
You who have no money,
come, buy food and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk,
without money, without price!
Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you will eat well,
you will delight in rich fare;
bend your ear and come to me,
listen, that you may have life:
I will make an everlasting Covenant with you –
in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David.
See, I have made of you to be a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of the nations.
See, you will summon nations you never knew,
and nations that never knew you will come hurrying to you –
for the sake of YHWH, the Holy One of Israel,
who will glorify you.
Seek me, YHWH, while I may still be found,
call upon me while I am near!
Let the corrupt abandon their ways,
the evil of their thoughts.
Let them return to YHWH, and I will have mercy on them;
return to God, for I will freely pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways, my ways,” says YHWH

“As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.”

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

Psalm 63

O Love, You are my Beloved, and
I long for you,
my soul thirsts for You;
**All that is within me thirsts,
as in a dry and barren land
with no water.**

So I have called out to You in
my heart,
sensing your power and glory.
**Because your wondrous Love is
Life in me,
my lips will praise You.**
I would radiate your Love as long
as I live,
becoming a blessing to others
in gratitude to you.

**My soul feasts as with a
magnificent banquet,
and my mouth praises You with
joyful lips;**
When I ponder on your kindness, and
meditate on You throughout
the night;
**For You have been my salvation,
and in the shadows of your wings
I sing for joy.**
My soul clings to You,
your love upholds me.
**The fears that seem to separate me
from You
shall be transformed and
disappear;**

As they are faced, each fear
is diminished;
**they shall be gone as in a dream
when I Awaken.**

And my soul shall rejoice in the
Beloved.

**All who open their hearts to Love
will live in peace and joy!**

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifice. Jesus replied, "Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you'll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! I tell you, you'll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.

Jesus told this parable: "There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn't find any. The owner said to the vine dresser, 'Look here! For three years now I've come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?'

"In reply, the vine dresser said, 'Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.'"

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil – ELW 512
sung twice through

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.*

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. We pray especially this day for Bessie Asai, Ruth Turner, Vicky Wartalski, and all those in our community of faith unable to be with us 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 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](#)

Offertory Prayer

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface - TFWS 2257-a

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

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,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.
In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

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,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.

Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)

Sending Song:

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy – UMH 121
verses 1-4

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

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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

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.

April Newsletter

Send in all submissions for the April Newsletter by the end of this week!

SPRC meeting has been moved to next week, following worship.

Attributions

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