

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



March 6th, 2022  
*First Sunday in Lent*

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Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

We cry out to the God of our ancestors:

**Deliver us from the ways of evil and set us on your path of Love.**

For God is our refuge, the One in whom we find our freedom.

**She companions us through grief.**

She leads us through valleys of despair.

**She rises up when oppression bears down.**

God will see us through the wilderness

**and lead us together 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.

Abiding God, in the wilderness places of our lives – when we feel isolated, alone, forgotten, and desperate – awaken your Spirit within us that we might be drawn back to your community of beloveds. In the name of Christ, who shows us how to live in this way, we pray.

**Amen.**

#### First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Once you have entered the land that YHWH, your God, is giving to you as your inheritance, and you have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that YHWH, your God, is giving to you, and put them in a basket. Take them to the place which YHWH, your God, will choose as a dwelling place for God's Name and say to the priest in office at that time, "This day I declare to YHWH, our God, that I have come to the

land YHWH swore to our ancestors to give us.” The priest will then receive the basket from you and will set it in front of the altar of YHWH.

Then you will declare before YHWH, “My ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. There they became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor on us, we cried out to YHWH, the God of our ancestors, who heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; YHWH gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have brought now the first fruit of the products of the soil that you, O God, have given me.” Then you must set them before YHWH, and bow down before YHWH. Then you all, along with the Levites, and the foreigner that live among you, will feast on all the good things that YHWH, your God, has given to you and your household.

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

#### Psalm 91

Those who dwell in the shelter of  
    Infinite Light,  
    who abide in the wings of  
    Infinite Love,  
**Will raise their voices in praise:**  
    **“My refuge and my strength;**  
    **in You alone will I trust.”**  
For you deliver me from the webs  
    of fear and illusion,  
    from all that separates and divides;  
**You protect me as an eagle shields**  
    **its young.**  
    **Your faithfulness is sure, like**  
    **an arrow set upon the mark.**  
I will not fear the shadows of the night,  
    nor the confusion that comes  
    by day,  
**Nor the dreams that awaken me from**  
    **sleep**  
    **nor the daily changes that**  
    **life brings.**

Though a thousand may deride this  
radical trust,  
ten thousand laugh as I seek  
to do your Will,  
**Yet will I surrender myself to You,  
abandoning myself into your Hands  
without reserve.**

For you have sent your angels to  
watch over me,  
to guide me in all my ways.  
**On their hands, they will bear me up,  
lest I dash my foot against  
a stone.**

Though I walk among those who  
roar like a lion,  
or are as stealthy as the adder,  
in your strength will I endure.

**“Because you cleave to Me in love,  
I will deliver you;  
I will protect you, who  
call upon my Name.**  
When you call to Me, I will answer you;  
I will be with you in times  
of trouble,  
I will rescue you so that  
you will know my Peace,  
**All through the years, will I dwell  
in your heart,  
as Loving Companion Presence,  
forever.”**

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.'"

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Devil said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish.

Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours."

In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it:

'You will worship the Most High God;  
God alone will you adore.'"

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it,

'God will tell the angels to take care of you;  
with their hands they'll support you,  
that you may never stumble on a strone.'"

Jesus said to the Devil in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day: O Lord Throughout These Forty Days – ELW 319

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.*

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us.

God of grace,

**hear 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.

God of grace,

**hear 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

## 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: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me – ELW 325

## 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](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 sent out this week and posted to our website.

### **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.

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