

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



June 19th, 2022  
*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

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Prelude

Acclamation in G minor  
*Spirit of Grace Bell Choir*

Welcome

A Call to Peace in Times of Violence

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

We gather in the presence of the Beloved One,  
**Insistent that we are a community of equals.**  
To all that stands in the way of right-relationship,  
**The spirit of Christ says “no more!”**  
God leads us in a better way:  
**No spirits of domination will last.**  
No barriers to welcome will stand.  
**God has already claimed us:**  
We are children of the Divine.  
**Each of us, no more, no less.**  
Praise God, who frees us to love one another.

## Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.  
Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.  
When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.  
Set us again on the path of life.  
Save us from ourselves  
and free us to love our neighbors.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

Baptized in Water – TFWS 2248  
*verses 1, 2, and 3*

## 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 community, who draws us together - teach us how to turn our eyes towards the margins – towards those who have been cast out, abandoned, and forgotten. When forces of evil try to tear us apart, send your healing Spirit to weave us back together. Help us to remember that we were all created in our beloved image, and all people are worthy of dignity, love, and support in their life.

**Amen.**

First Reading: Galatians 3: 23-29

Before faith came, we were under the constraint of the Law, locked in until the faith that was coming would be revealed. In other words, the Law was our monitor until Christ came to bring about our justification through faith. But now that faith is here, we are no longer in the monitor's charge.

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.

Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:19-28

But you, YHWH, don't be far off!

My strength, hurry to help me!

**Rescue my life from the sword,  
my dear life from the power of these dogs!**

Save me from the lion's mouth,  
my poor soul from the wild bull's horns!

**Then I will proclaim your Name to my sisters and brothers,  
and praise you in the full assembly:**

"You who worship YHWH, give praise!

Daughters of Leah, daughters of Rachel, glorify YHWH!

Sons of Jacob, fall down and worship!

**For God has not despised – not disdained –  
the suffering of those in pain!**

**God didn't hide**

**but answered them when they cried for help!"**

You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly,  
and I will fulfill my vows in the presence of your worshipers.

**Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied,  
those who seek you will give you praise –  
long life to their hearts!**

The whole earth, from one end to the other  
will remember and come back to you.

**For yours is the kingdom,  
you Ruler of nations!**

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 8th chapter.

They came to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. Jesus was stepping from the boat when he was met by a person from the town who was possessed by demons. The demoniac had not worn clothes for a long time, and was homeless, living among the tombs instead.

Seeing Jesus, the individual cried out and fell at his feet, shouting loudly, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Only Begotten of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" – for Jesus was ordering the unclean spirit to come out of the person. This spirit had seized the demoniac many times in the past, who then needed to be restrained with chains and shackles and kept under guard – yet every time, the possessed person would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into deserted places.

"What is your name?" Jesus asked.

"Legion," it replied, because many demons had entered the person. And they pleaded with Jesus not to order them to depart into the abyss.

A large herd of pigs was feeding nearby on the hillside. The demons pleaded with Jesus to allow them to enter the swine, and he gave them permission. The demons left the person and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the hillside into the lake and drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran away to tell the story in town and throughout the countryside. The local residents came out to see what happened. And as they approached Jesus, they also saw the exorcized person sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and of a right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had witnessed it told the others how the possessed one had been made whole. Panic overcame the whole population of the region of the Gerasenes, and they asked Jesus to leave them.

When Jesus had gotten into the boat to leave, the person who had been healed asked to go with him. But Jesus said, "No, go back home and tell everyone what God has done for you." So the one who had been made whole went off and proclaimed throughout the region what Jesus had accomplished.

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds – ELW 620  
*verses 1, 2, and 5*

## Affirmation of Faith – Ionian Creed

*Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:*

**We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,  
he died alone and forsaken.  
He descended into the earth  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.  
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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You hear the cries of the earth. Restore places where land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Guide us to develop and implement sources of energy and food production that do not destroy the earth.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, naked, hungry, and sick. Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness, that they can clearly recognize your loving presence.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father's Day. Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships. Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of peace, we pray for victims of war and violence across the world. Guide and protect those who stand with the vulnerable and advocate for the oppressed. Send your Spirit to show us how to turn swords into plowshares, that nations might work together to create a culture of peace.

God in your mercy,  
**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

All Things Bright and Beautiful  
*Spirit of Grace Bell Choir*

*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](#)*

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance:  
you have set before us a plentiful harvest.  
As we feast on your goodness,  
strengthen us to labor in your field,  
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,  
in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**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*

- *First and foremost, this is Christ's table, and no human can place a barrier before it. All are welcome at this feast of abundance, regardless of age, faith, or any other human distinction.*
- *Ushers will dismiss you by row, starting with one side of the sanctuary before moving on to the other. Come forward through the center aisle and return to your seat via the outer aisle. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know so that we may serve you accordingly.*
- *As you come forward, we ask that you keep your mask on, and only briefly remove or lift it to receive the elements. You may also choose to bring them with you back to your seat.*
- *We have bread and gluten free wafers available as well as both wine and grape juice. The wine is the red liquid and the grape juice is the clear.*
- *If you do not wish to receive communion, you may either stay in your seat and use this time for contemplation and meditation, or you may come forward to receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of your chest to make your desire known.*

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*

Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds

and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,

both friend and stranger,

that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## *Announcements*

Sending Song:

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me – ELW 860  
verses 1, 2, and 3

Blessing

The God of peace,  
Creator, ☩ Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
bless you, comfort you,  
and show you the path of life  
this day and always.  
**Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace – the Spirit of God is alive in you!  
**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**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-2  
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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
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