

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



July 17th  
*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

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Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

May we land in our bodies  
and soften our spirits  
to meet the Living God in our midst.  
**The Holy Spirit is present within us,  
between us, and beyond us.**  
Like a caring elder, She moves kindly, and wisely.  
**Let us worship God, our comfort and our strength.**

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

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word – ELW 520  
*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 the ages, send your Spirit of peace to dwell among us. May our roots grow firm in your everlasting love, that we might have the strength to face days to come, knowing we are held and supported by the power of your Name. Through Jesus Christ, our savior, teacher, and friend, we pray.

**Amen.**

First Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

Christ is the image of the unseen God  
and the firstborn of all creation,  
for in Christ were created  
all things in heaven and on earth:  
everything visible and invisible,  
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –  
all things were created through Christ and for Christ.  
Before anything was created, Christ existed,  
and all things hold together in Christ.  
The church is the body;  
Christ is its head.  
Christ is the Beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
and so Christ is first in every way.  
God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ,  
and all things to be reconciled to God through Christ –  
everything in heaven and on earth –  
when Christ made peace  
by dying on the cross.

At one time, you were alienated from God by the way you thought and the evil things you did. But now you are reconciled in Christ's mortal body through death, so that you can now persevere and stand firm on the solid base of your faith. Never let yourselves drift away from the hope promised by the Good News you have heard which even now is being preached to the whole human race, and for which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Even now I find my joy in the suffering I endure for you. In my own body I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Jesus, for the sake of Christ's body, the church. I became a minister of this church through the commission God gave me, to preach among you the word in its fullness – that mystery hidden from ages and generations past, but now revealed to God's holy ones. God's will was to make known to them the priceless glory which this mystery brings to the nations – the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is the Christ we proclaim while we admonish everyone and teach them in the full measure of wisdom, hoping to make everyone complete in our Savior. For this I work and struggle, impelled by Christ's own working, which is so powerful a force in me.

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

Psalm 52

How can you boast  
about how corrupt you are, you tyrant?  
Even against God's beloved  
**you forge wild lies all day long –  
your slanderous tongue is sharp as a razor!**

You love evil, not good;  
falsehood, not truth telling.

**You enjoy cruel gossip  
and slanderous talk.**

So God will pull you down to the ground forever,  
and uprooted from the land of the living!

**The righteous will look on, awestruck,  
and they will laugh at your plight.**

"This is the one," they'll say,  
"who didn't seek refuge in God,  
but trusted in great wealth  
and grew strong by destroying others."

**I am an olive tree flourishing in God's house,  
for I trust in God's love forever and ever.**

I will praise you forever for what you have done;  
among your faithful I will put my trust in your Name,  
for it is good.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 10th chapter.

As they traveled, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words.

Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, don't you care that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You're anxious and upset about so many things, but only a few things are necessary – really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she won't be deprived of it."

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Open Our Eyes – TFWS 2086  
*sung twice through*

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.*

Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers (especially).

God of grace,

**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 of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

**Amen.**

## Offering

*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.**

## Blessing & Gratitude for Jennifer Fowler

*May today offer you what your spirit needs  
to evolve, to expand, to unfold.  
May it stretch you, but just enough.  
Not by force nor demand,  
but like an invitation that opens slowly,  
too careful to be rushed.  
May you be brave enough to loosen your grip  
on what you know and perceive –  
on what you have learned from fear  
or inherited from lineages of cruelty.  
May you give thanks for all the sources that gifted you  
with survival and wisdom, perspective and protection –  
but not let your gratitude unnecessarily wed you to them forever.  
Everything has a season, a context, a place and a time –  
even truths that have freed you.  
Maybe there are some things that served you well for an era,  
but not any longer.  
Maybe it's time to rethink, reshape, review.  
Maybe you're ready to release another untruth  
handed to you early on,  
meant to keep you in line, in order, in compliance.  
What might be replaced with acceptance  
of your power and potential?  
For the sake of your own becoming,  
and also, us all.  
Your soul-work is essential to the labors of love –  
collective and eternal.  
Material, relational, and communal repair are all forms of healing  
made possible by souls entangled  
in shared longings and commitments.  
So may this day feed you and challenge you,  
surprise and comfort you,  
that you might have what you need  
to be courageous, to be humble,  
and to let your soul grow.  
– “A blessing for letting go and stretching beyond” - Rev. M Barclay, *enfleshed**

## Announcements

Sending Song:

Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee – UMH 562  
verses 1, 2, and 4

## 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

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

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