

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



July 24th  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

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Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

For Beloved Community near and far,  
**For the invitation to love and to be loved,**  
For abundant opportunities to begin again,

For spiritual practices that ground us,  
**For play that enlivens us,**  
For Wisdom that invites us to expansive living  
—**we give thanks to the Holy One for these sustaining gifts.**  
Let us worship God, our Provider and Friend.

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus – ELW 742  
*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.

Abba God, loving creator, protective parent to us all – call us close to you this day, and open our hearts, that our lives might be changed by the transformative power of prayer and relationship with you: the God who forms us, knows us, and loves us intimately. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.  
**Amen.**

First Reading: Colossians 2:6-15

Since you have received Christ Jesus, live your whole life in our Savior. Send your roots deep and grow strong in Christ – firmly established in the faith you’ve been taught, and full of thanksgiving. Make sure that no one traps you and deprives you of your freedom by some secondhand, empty, deceptive philosophy that is based on the principles of the world rather than Christ.

In Christ the fullness of divinity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you find your own fulfillment – in the One who is the head of every Sovereignty and Power. In Christ you have been given the Covenant through a transformation performed not by human hands, but by the complete stripping away of your body of flesh. This is what “circumcision” in Christ means. In baptism you were not only buried with Christ but also raised to life, because you believed in the power of God who raised Christ from the dead. And though you were dead in sin and did not have the power of the Covenant, God gave you new life in company with Christ, pardoning all our sins. God has canceled the massive debt that stood against us with all its hostile claims, taking it out of the way and nailing it to the cross. In this way God disarmed the Principalities and the Powers and made a public display of them after having triumphed over them at the cross.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138

I thank you with all my heart;  
I sing your praise before the gods.  
**I bow down in front of your holy Temple  
and praise your Name  
because of your love and faithfulness,  
for you have put above everything else  
your Name and your word.**

When I called, you answered me –  
you made me bold and strong of heart.  
**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, YHWH,  
when they hear the words of your mouth.**

They will sing about what you have done, YHWH,  
and about your great glory.

**Even though you are so high above,  
you care for the lowly  
and see arrogant people from far away.**

Even when I'm surrounded by troubles,  
you keep me safe;  
you oppose the anger of my enemies,  
and save me with your right hand.

**You will do everything  
you have promised me.  
YHWH, your love is eternal;  
don't abandon the work of your hands.**

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 11th chapter.

One day Jesus was praying, and when he had finished, one of the disciples asked, “Rabbi, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say,

‘Abba God,  
hallowed be your Name!  
May your reign come.  
Give us today  
Tomorrow’s bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
for we too forgive everyone who sins against us;  
and don’t let us be subjected to the Test.’”

Jesus said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, a neighbor, and you go to your neighbor at midnight and say, ‘Lend me three loaves of bread, because friends of mine on a journey have come to me, and I have nothing to set before them.’

Then your neighbor says, ‘Leave me alone. The door is already locked and the children and I are in bed. I can’t get up to look after your needs.’ I tell you, though your neighbor will not get up to give you bread out of friendship, your persistence will make your neighbor get up and give you as much as you need.

“That’s why I tell you, keep asking and you’ll receive; keep looking and you’ll find, keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted. What parents among you will give a snake to their child when the child asks for a fish, or a scorpion when the child asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will our heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?”

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Come Away with Me – TFWS 2202  
verses 1, 2, 4, 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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. We pray especially for our local waters: for the Hood River, our namesake; for the Cold Springs of Mt. Hood that nourishes us; for the great Columbia River in all of her splendor and glory. Protect water sources and strengthen those who defend and care for them.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer, especially those without sufficient shelter and safety to protect them from the coming heat wave. Be with farmers, growers, field workers, those who are houseless, and all who will be in danger this week. Move us to care for one another in mutual love, that all may find comfort and relief.

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.**

Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory.

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](#)

## Thanksgiving for the Word

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,  
your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.  
All that has life and breath praises your name.  
For your Word that sustains the earth,  
**We thank you, O God.**

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,  
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.  
For your Word in Christ,  
**We praise you, O God.**

Nourish us with the Spirit of your WORD,  
that we may grow in grace, bearing fruits of redemption,  
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.  
For your Word in our lives,  
**We entreat you, O God.**

Accept our thanksgiving and received our prayer,  
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray now 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.**

Blessing & Gratitude for Jennifer Fowler

*This Day We Say Grateful – a sending blessing by Jan Richardson*

*It is a strange thing  
to be so bound  
and so released  
all in the same moment,  
to feel the heart  
open wide  
and wider still  
even as it turns  
to take its leave.*

*On this day,  
let us say  
this is simply the way  
love moves  
in its ceaseless spiraling,  
turning us toward  
one another,  
then sending us  
into what waits for us  
with arms open wide to us  
in welcome  
and in hope.*

*On this day,  
in this place  
where you have  
poured yourself out,  
where you have been  
emptied  
and filled  
and emptied again,  
may you be aware  
more than ever  
of what your heart  
has opened to  
here,  
what it has tended  
and welcomed  
here,  
where it has broken  
in love and in grief,  
where it has given  
and received blessing  
in the unfathomable mystery  
that moves us,  
undoes us,  
and remakes us  
finally  
for joy.*

*This day  
may you know  
this joy  
in full measure.*

*This day  
may you know  
this blessing  
that gathers you in  
and sends you forth  
but will not  
forget you.*

*O hear us  
as this day  
we say  
grace;  
this day  
we say  
grateful;  
this day  
we say  
blessing;  
this day  
we release you  
in God's keeping  
and hold you  
in gladness  
and love.*

Announcements

Sending Song:

O God in Heaven – ELW 748  
*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

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## **Church Office Hours**

**Closed on Fridays**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

M-W 9-12, or by appointment

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