

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



August 21st
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

– Gathering –

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

We gather in the presence of the Beloved
who does not forget or forsake us,
who breathes vibrance into the Cosmos
and Love into our lives.

We bring to the God of Abundance:
our breath, our pleasure, our aches and pains,
for the Living Christ works with us towards wellness in all things.
We gather to worship the Wellspring of Life and Lavisher of Love.

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

This is the Day – UMH 657
sung twice through

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 healing and restoration, you sent your son, Jesus Christ to heal your children of this world – not only in body, but in heart, mind, and spirit. Return us to the rootedness in which you formed us, and restore our relationships with one another, that we might live in community with one another to serve, praise, and honor your holy name.

Amen.

– Word –

First Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm, or trumpeting thunder, or the great voice speaking such that those hearing it begged no more be said to them. They couldn't bear to hear the command, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." Indeed, so fearful was the spectacle that even Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

What you have drawn near to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, where myriad angels have gathered for the festival with the whole church – in which everyone is a "firstborn" and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God, the supreme Judge, and have been placed with the spirits of the holy ones who have been made perfect. You have come to Jesus – the mediator who brings a new Covenant – and to the sprinkled blood which pleads even more insistently than that of Abel.

Make sure that you never refuse to listen to the One who speaks. If the people who refused to listen to the warning while on earth didn't escape, how much less will we escape if we refuse to listen to the voice of warning that comes from heaven? God's voice shook the earth then, but now God promises, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." That promise means that the things being shaken are created things, so that only those things that cannot be shaken will remain. Therefore, since we have inherited an unshakable kingdom, let us thankfully worship God in a way that is acceptable – in reverence and in awe. For our God is a consuming fire.

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

Psalm 103:1-8

Bless YHWH, my soul!
All that is in me, bless God's holy Name!
**Bless YHWH, my soul,
and remember all God's kindnesses!**
The One who forgives all your sins
is the One who heals all your diseases;
**the One who ransoms your life from the Pit
is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness**
The One who fills your years with prosperity
also gives you an eagle's youthful energy.
**How you love justice, YHWH!
You are always on the side of the oppressed.**
You revealed your intentions to Moses,
your deeds to Israel.
**You are tender and compassionate, YHWH –
slow to anger, and always loving.**

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues. There was a woman there who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit. She was bent double, quite incapable of standing up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are free of your infirmity." He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began thanking God. The head of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, "There are six days for working. Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath." Jesus said in reply, "You hypocrites! Which of you doesn't let your ox or your donkey out of the stall on the Sabbath to water it? This daughter of Sarah and Abraham has been in the bondage of Satan for eighteen years. Shouldn't she have been released from her shackles on the Sabbath?" At these words, Jesus' opponents were humiliated; meanwhile, everyone else rejoiced at the marvels Jesus was accomplishing.

Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Healer of Our Every Ill – TFWS 2213
verses 1, 2, and 4

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 crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds throughout the Columbia Gorge. We give thanks to those who have devoted their lives to healing and restoring the habitats of these creatures. Help us to repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, so that all creation may thrive.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted. Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety. Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshiping assembly. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for victims of war and violence across the world. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up activists and community organizers to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. 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.

– Meal –

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](#)

Offering 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.

– Sending –

Announcements

Sending Song:

Lord of the Dance – UMH 261
verses 1, 3, and 5

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-Th 9-1, or by appointment

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Tuesday 10-1

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