

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



September 11th, 2022
Season of Creation
Listen to the Waters of Creation

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the beginning, God created the earth
to bear the abundant fruit of life.

All Creation Sings, telling the story of God.

From the tiny bumblebee bat in its cave,
to the mammoth Blue Whales of the ocean,

All Creation Sings, showing the love of God.

In expansive canyons and on snowy mountain peaks,
In habitats, ecosystems, and biomes across the world,

All Creation Sings, teaching the Word of God

May we be faithful students of Creation,

Listening with hearts open wide.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the continual Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
of us and all of Creation.

Amen.

Gathered together, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of grace and mercy,
**you entrusted us as stewards of your marvelous creation,
but we confess that we have not honored this responsibility.
In a world of abundance, we have created scarcity.
In a world of change and renewal,
we have dug in our heels and resisted these cycles.
In a world built for community and relationality,
We have chosen independence and exerted our own superiority.**

**We have hurt instead of healed,
hoarded instead of helped,
hastened rather than humbled.**

**We come to you this day to offer
our deepest sorrow and most humble repentance,
and ask that you show us again your path of new life.**

Beloved Siblings in Christ, hear the good news:
In the waters of baptism, God washes away all our sin.
Just as the sun brings a new dawn each day,
So too does God's Son offer us endless grace and mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
May we use this freedom to grow ever closer
to the Divine Creator of all Creation.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

All Things Bright & Beautiful – UMH 147
verses 2 + 4

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, your presence is sure and true. You have given us the gift of continual relationship with you, through your son, Jesus Christ. Give us the courage to engage in this relationship with our fullest selves, that we might be your living water in this world for all creation.

Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Exodus 32: 7-14

YHWH said to Moses, “Go down, now! These people whom you led out of Egypt have corrupted themselves! In such a short time, they have turned from the way I have given them, and made themselves a molten calf. They then worshiped it and sacrificed to it saying, ‘Israel, here is your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’”

YHWH then said to Moses, “I look at these people now – how stubborn they are! Now leave me to myself so that my anger may pour out on them, and destroy them! But you, I’ll make into a great nation.”

Then Moses soothed the face of YHWH, his God. “But why, my God, should you let your wrath pour out on these people whom you delivered from Egypt with great might, with a strong hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘Their God intended to destroy them all along, to kill them in the mountains, to erase them from the earth?’ Turn your back on your rage; reconsider the disaster you intended for your people. Do not forget Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob, your chosen ones, to whom you promised, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; I will give to you all this land which I have promised – I will give it to your descendants, and they will enjoy its inheritance forever.’”

So YHWH relented, and the disaster that threatened the Israelites was forestalled.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-10

O God, have mercy on me!
Because of your love and your great compassion,
wipe away my faults;
wash me clean of my guilt;
purify me of my sin.
For I am aware of my faults,
and I have my sin constantly in mind.
I have sinned against you alone,
and did what is evil in your sight.
You are just when you pass sentence on me,
blameless when you give judgment.

I was born in sin,
conceived in sin –
yet you want truth to live in my innermost being.
Teach me your wisdom!
Purify me with hyssop until I am clean;
wash me until I am purer than new-fallen snow.
Instill some joy and gladness into me;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice again.
Turn your face from my sins,
and wipe out all my guilt.
O God, create a clean heart in me,
put into me a new and steadfast spirit.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter.

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it’s found? And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent.

“What householder, who has ten silver pieces and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she has lost? And when it is found, the householder calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver piece I lost!’ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Crashing Waters at Creation – ELW 455
verses 1-4

Affirmation of Faith – Gurukul Theological College, India

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, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.
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.

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: teach us to listen. Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community, that we may serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness.

Provide for those in any need, and hold the sick and suffering close to your heart.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

God of peace, we pray for victims of war and violence across the world. Send your Spirit to show us how to turn swords into plowshares, that nations might work together to create a culture of peace.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

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

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](#)

Prayer for the Preservation & Healing of the Earth

Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, overthrow their schemes. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Preserve the health of your beloved creation, especially:

local natural sites related to the theme of the day may be named.

Strengthen those who serve and protect the garden of this earth. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at the river, under the tree of life. Send forth your Spirit to renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus our redeemer. 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.**

- Sending -

Announcements

Sending Song:

I've Got Peace Like a River – TFWS 2145
verses 1-3

Benediction & Dismissal

In the words of Octavia E. Butler,
*“God is change –
seed to tree, tree to forest;
rain to river, river to sea;
grubs to bees, bees to swarm.
From one, many; from many, one.
Forever uniting, growing, dissolving –
forever Changing.
The universe is God’s self-portrait.”*

May we dance in delight of this blessing
God has bestowed upon us;
to be a part of this Divine Revelation.
May we live justly and walk humbly,
as we honor the responsibility this entails.
Amen.

Go in peace, the Spirit of God is alive in you!
Thanks be to God!



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Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

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Attributions

Call to Worship: *written by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller, 2022*

Confession & Forgiveness: *written by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller, 2022*

Opening Hymn:

Prayer of the Day: *written by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller, 2022*

Hymn of the Day:

Affirmation of Faith: *Gurukul Theological college, India / adapted by Keld B. Hansen 2009 – used with permission*

Prayers of the People (opening prayer and responses): *“Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022” used with permission*

Prayer for the Preservation & Healing of the Earth: *“Prayers, Thanksgivings, and Laments” in All Creation Sings, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress*

Sending Song:

Benediction: *written by Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller, 2022*