

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



October 23rd  
*20th Sunday after Pentecost*

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## *- Gathering -*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

God, you are not interested in our perfection.

**You are not caught up by who's in first place.**

You don't even measure here to there.

**You wonder about the shape ease can take in our bodies.**

You delight when we dance free from patterns of harm.

**You lure us towards connection and compassion.**

You break open narrow ways of understanding.

**Hallelujah, we are not where we started!**

Hallelujah! God's love moves us towards gentleness

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who is eager to forgive

and who loves us beyond our days.

**Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.  
**We have harmed your good creation.  
We have failed to do justice,  
love kindness,  
and walk humbly with you.  
Turn us in a new direction.  
Show us the path that leads to life.  
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.  
Amen.**

Beloved of God:  
your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.  
God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.  
Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Just as I Am, Without One Plea – UMH 357  
*verses 1, 5, 6*

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.

Almighty and Merciful God, we come before you this day with open hearts. Set your Holy Spirit of wisdom and love within us, that our lives might be transformed as we strive to follow in the footsteps of your son, Jesus Christ, the embodiment of true justice, peace, and love.

**Amen.**

## - Word -

First Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

As for me, my life is already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. Now a laurel wreath awaits me; on that day our God, the just judge, will award it to me – and not only to me, but to all who have longer for Christ's appearing.

I found myself alone and without a single witness at my first defense. Pray that they not be punished for it. Christ stood by my side and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the nations might hear the Gospel. That's how I was saved from the lion's jaws. Christ will continue to rescue me from all attempts to do me harm, and will bring me safe to the higher realm. To Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever! Amen.

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

Psalm 84:1-7

How I love your dwelling place,  
YHWH Sabaoth!

**How my soul yearns and pines  
for your courts, YHWH!**

**My heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to you, the living God.**

The sparrow has found its home at last,  
the swallow a nest for its young –  
on your altars, YHWH Sabaoth,  
my Sovereign, my God!

**Happiness belongs to those who live in your house  
and can praise you all day long;**

and happy the pilgrims who find refuge in you  
as they set their hearts on the Ascents!

**As they go through the Valley of the Weeper,  
they make it a place of springs,  
clothed in blessings by the early rains.**

From there they make their way from village to village  
until each one appears before God in Zion.

**YHWH, God of Hosts, hear my prayer;  
Listen, O God of our ancestors!**

Sermon

[Recording of Bishop Patricia Davenport](#)  
ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2022

Hymn of the Day

Change my heart, O God – ELW 801  
*sung three times*

Affirmation of Faith – *A New Creed, Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada*

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

**We are not alone  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our redeemer and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God. 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.*

God of all creation, you formed a world where even the sparrow finds a home. Preserve the beauty and diversity of all creatures with whom we share the earth. Lead us to protect all living things.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Inspire your church to serve and love all people with the unceasing grace you extend to us.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow your ways.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, you stand with the suffering and give strength. Comfort your people filled with fear or anger, anxiety or shame. Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

*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 of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, in your great love, you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts we offer and return to you a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who extends an abundant welcome to all.  
**Amen.**

## The Disciple's Prayer

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation that you are most familiar with – the language of your heart. Together, we pray:

**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:

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy – ELW 587/588  
verses 1, 3, 4

Benediction & Dismissal

God, who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, † one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.  
**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**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**  
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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
Tuesday 10-1

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Prayer of the Day:

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