

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



October 2nd
Season of Creation
Listen to the Seeds 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 and Beautiful – UMH 147
verses 1 + 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 growth and new life, whose creative powers are constantly at work in this world – show us how to tend and nurture our seeds of faith, that we might be transformed into a new creation together, working towards change, restoration, and abundance for all of your creation. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, we pray.

Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

The Oracle that Habakkuk the Prophet received in a vision.

“How long, YHWH, am I to cry for help while you do not listen?

How long will I cry, ‘Oppression!’ in your ear and you do not save?

Why do you make me look upon injustice?

Why do you countenance tyranny?

Outrage and violence – this is all I see!

All is contention, and discord flourishes.

The law loses its hold,

and justice never shows itself.

The corrupt triumph over those who are righteous,

and justice is perverted once again.

“I will stand on my watchtower,
and take up my post on my battlements,
watching to see what God will say to me,
what answers God will make to my complaints.”

Then YHWH replied, “Write down this vision,
inscribe it legibly on tablets
so that a herald can easily read it,
since this vision will stand as witness
to the appointed time of judgment;
it gives faithful testimony
about a time that will come.
If it is slow in coming, wait for it –
for come it will, without fail:

“Look – those whose hearts are corrupt
will faint with exhaustion,
while those who steadfastly uphold justice will live.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-9

Don't be vexed by evildoers,
and don't be envious of the corrupt!
**They'll soon fade like the grass,
and wither away like unwatered plants.**

Trust in YHWH, and do good,
and you'll dwell in the land and enjoy security.
**Delight in YHWH,
and you'll be given the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to YHWH, and trust in YHWH;
God will take action,
**making your vindication as sure as the dawn
and your integrity as bright as noonday.**

Be still before YHWH and wait patiently;
don't fret about those who amass great fortunes
and carry out their schemes unchallenged.

**Let go of your anger, and leave resentment behind.
And stop worrying! It produces nothing but evil,
and evil doers will be cut off.**
But those who put their hope in YHWH –
they will inherit the land.

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 17th chapter.

The apostles said to Jesus, "Increase our faith!"

Jesus answered, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Uproot yourself and plant yourself in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"If one of you had hired help plowing a field or herding sheep, and they came in from the fields, would you say to them, 'Come and sit at my table?' Wouldn't you say instead, 'Prepare my supper. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink afterward'? Would you be grateful to the workers who were just doing their job? It's the same with you who hear me. When you have done all you have been commanded to, say, 'We are simple workers. We have done no more than our duty.'"

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

You Are the Seed – UMH 583
verses 1 + 3

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.**

Blessing of the Animals

Let us pray.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life. Recalling Francis who celebrated your love for all creation, today we embrace our connectedness to all: to wind, sea, and sky: to earthworm, giraffe, and chicken; to fish and puppy, to cats of the jungle and in our homes. Deepen our care for all that lives; in the name of Jesus, our teacher, savior, and friend. **Amen.**

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of these animals in the life of our community. Through these creatures, you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on these animals in our lives. We give thanks this day:

For Spice, Sangie, and Sammy Bermes

For Toby Dutton

For Louie, Morticia, and Winnifred Bermes-Goller

For Pip Chenoweth

For Brandy, Peanut, and Raven Hart

For Rex McBee and the Spring Hatchlings
For Fozzie Laufenberg and Princess Pantley
For Dr. Luther Rowland
For Buskey and Lily Sibley
For Queenie Sutton
For Rex Boris
For Deuce Fitch
And for all the other animals we hold in our hearts this day.

For the companionship of our pets, for the lessons they teach us, for the love we both give and receive, we say thanks. Bless the lives of the animals in our care, and may they know love throughout all of their days. **Amen.**

Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our love and care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray all this in Jesus' name.
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. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it. 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.

For all creatures, great and small. For animals and fish, birds and insects. For canyons and caverns, deserts and tundra. For lakes and streams, fields and forests. For communities that suffer from drought or flooding, damaging winds or rising sea levels.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

For the nations and their leaders. For all who, like Michael, fight against evil and work for justice. For peacemakers, activists, and all who defend the rights of others. For those who protect children and vulnerable adults.

God, who listens to every living thing,

Help us listen as you do.

Protector God, our very present help in times of trouble, we ask for your healing and protective presence to be among all those suffering the effects of Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Fiona. Bring comfort to the afflicted and strength to those who come to their aid.

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.**

- Meal -

Offering

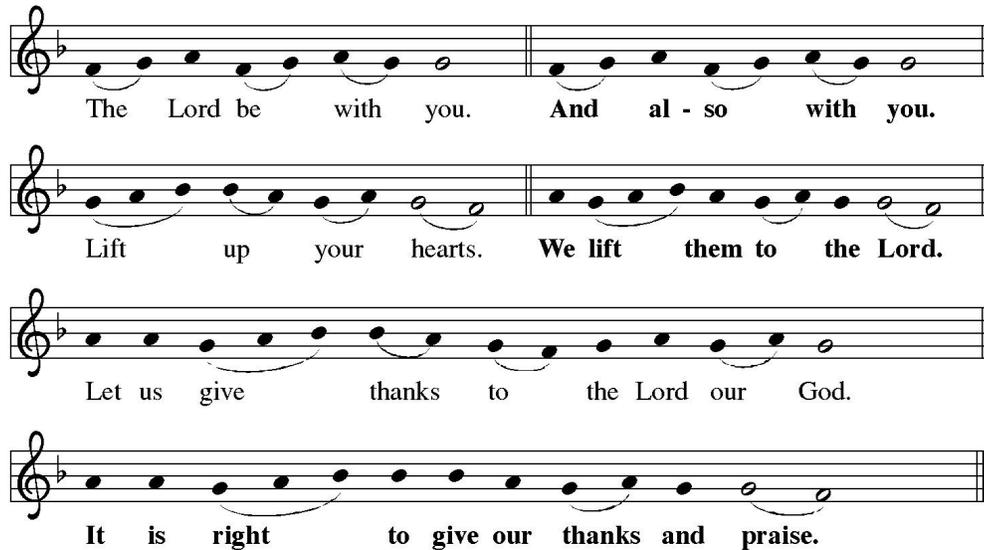
At this time, if you are willing and able, please consider giving to Spirit of Grace Church to support our ongoing ministry. Checks can be mailed to 1140 Tucker Road, Hood River OR, 97031. Online Donations can be made through the link below:
[Spirit of Grace Church](#)

Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.
Word and water, wine and bread:
These are signs of your abundant grace.
Receive these gifts we bring,
and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue & Preface

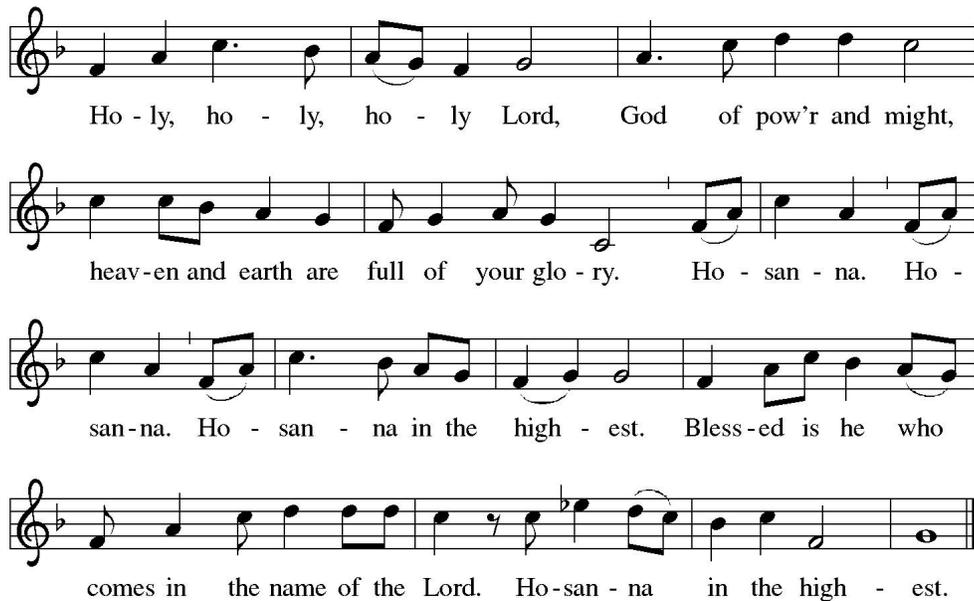


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table & Words of Institution

O God triune,
how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust
join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune,
you took on our flesh
in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine,
he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup,
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune,
you created the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey
with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and 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.**

Instructions for Communion

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

Living God,
as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord,
We have been nourished with the very presence of Christ.
Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word
and to proclaim the power of your love
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

- Sending -

Announcements

Sending Song:

For the Fruit of All Creation – ELW 679
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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M-Th 9-1, or by appointment

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Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

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:

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Sending Song:

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