

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



November 27th

Advent I

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Advent I Litany - Hope

The Hope of God-With-Us does not come as guaranteed outcome, or predetermined plan, or promise of a happy ending.

Hope cannot be imposed from on high. Hope cannot be commanded.

The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky, unfolding, indeterminate.

The Hope of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complacency.

Hope is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly.

Hope invites our expectation, and demands our participation.

Prepare the way, for hope with courage.

May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us this Advent.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Advent Prayer & Candle Lighting

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

Candle Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

***Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light enter our world
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.***

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be YHWH, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

**Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.**

Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on † Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – ELW 257
verses 1+2

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.

...

Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple will be established as the most important mountain and raised above all other hills – all nations will stream toward it. Many people will come and say: "Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths." Instruction will be given from Zion and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.
O House of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of YHWH!

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

Psalm 122 (*translation by Nan C. Merrill*)

My spirit soared when a Voice spoke to me:
"Come, come to the Heart of Love!"
**How long I had stood within the house of fear
yearning to enter the gates of Love!**

The New Jerusalem, the Holy City,
is bound firmly together;
**All who seek the Heart of Love,
those who have faced their fears,
Enter the gates in peace and with great joy,
singing songs of thanksgiving.**
There, in harmony with the cosmos,
the community gathers united in love.

**Pray for the peace of the world!
May all nations prosper as one!**
May peace reign among all peoples,
and integrity dwell within every heart!
**Then will friends and neighbors,
and former enemies as well,
cry out, "Peace be within you!"**
For the good of the universe and
in gratitude to the Beloved,

**Let us serve the Holy One
of all nations, with glad hearts.**

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 24th chapter.

“No one knows that day and that hour – not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten – only Abba God.

“The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah’s time. In the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. Two people will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be vigilant! For you don’t know the day your Savior is coming.

“Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. You must be prepared in the same way: The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – UMH 196
verses 1+2

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, t
he resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth, and all other lands where violence endures.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict (especially). Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs and prayers, those spoken aloud and held silently within. By your Spirit, gather all our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, across time and space. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

Loving God of endless grace and mercy, you provide for our every need. Accept this offering returned to you, and make of these gifts a banquet of blessing for all peoples; through Jesus Christ, who shows us how to live your love in this world.

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:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – UMH 206
verses 1+3

Benediction & Dismissal

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

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
M-Th 9-1, or by appointment
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Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

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Prayer of the Day:

Hymn of the Day:

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