

# *Spirit of Grace*

ELCA UMC



November 13th  
*23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

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## *- Gathering -*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

When we are unsure of where to go,

**we turn to you, God of Clarity, for guidance.**

When we feel stuck in between this and that,

**we wait for your nudge, Gentle Christ.**

When we are overwhelmed by the enormity of the work of healing,

**You, Wise Spirit, reveal the next stepping stone.**

Meet us in this place, Discerning God.

**We come to meet with You.**

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

Standing on the Promises – UMH 374  
*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.

Endless God, our Alpha and Omega – in this season of change, as the wind grows cold, the trees lose their leaves, and snow begins to creep down the hilltops – help us loosen our grasp on that which does not foster life for all people, and instead commit ourselves to being co-creators of your promised abundance here on earth. In the name of Christ and through the Holy Spirit, we pray.

**Amen.**

## - Word -

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

The Day is coming, burning like an oven,  
when all the arrogant and all the evil doers will be stubble;  
the Day that comes will burn them up,  
says YHWH Omnipotent,  
and it will leave them neither root nor branch.  
But for you who revere my Name,  
the sun will rise, a sun of justice,  
with healing in its rays.

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

Psalm 98

Sing a new song to YHWH,  
who has worked wonders,  
whose right hand and holy arm  
have brought deliverance!  
**YHWH has made salvation known  
and shown divine justice to the nations,**  
and has remembered in truth and love  
the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
**Shout to the Most High, all the earth,  
break into joyous songs of praise!**  
Sing praise to YHWH with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious singing!  
**With trumpets and the blast of the shofar,  
raise a shout to YHWH, Ruler of All.**  
Let the sea and all within it thunder;  
the world and all its peoples.  
**Let the rivers clap their hands  
and the hills ring out their joy before YHWH,**  
who comes to judge the earth,  
who will rule the earth with justice  
and its peoples with equity.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter.

Some disciples were speaking of how the Temple was adorned with precious stones and votive offerings. Jesus said, "You see all these things? The day will come when one stone won't be left on top of another – everything will be torn down."

They asked, "When will this happen, Rabbi? And what will be the sign it's about to happen?"

Jesus said, "Take care not to be misled. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the One' and 'The time is at hand.' Don't follow them. And don't be perturbed when you hear of wars and insurrections. These things must happen first, but the end doesn't follow immediately."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and empire against empire. There will be great earthquakes, plagues and famines in various places – and in the sky there will be frightening omens and great signs. But before any of this, they'll arrest you and persecute you, bringing you before synagogues and sending you to prison, bringing you to trial before rulers and governors. And it will all be because of my name – this will be your opportunity to give your testimony. So make up your minds not to worry about your defense beforehand, for I'll give you the words, and a wisdom that none of your adversaries can take exception to or contradict. You'll be betrayed even by your parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, yet not a hair on your head will be harmed. By patient endurance, you'll save your lives."

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

When Peace Like a River (It is Well with My Soul) – ELW 785  
verses 1, 3, 4

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.*

Renewing God, as the northern hemisphere prepares for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Reviving God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Encourage bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders to risk boldly in their proclamation and fill them with wisdom and endurance for challenging times.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders and active duty military personnel. Grant peace to veterans and heal any wounds in body, mind, or spirit.

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, your people cry out to you. Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick (especially).

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:

Thine Be the Glory – UMH 308  
verses 1, 2, 3

Benediction & Dismissal

The God of peace,  
who creates all things and calls them good,  
who makes us alive in Jesus,  
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,  
✠ 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  
[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)

**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
Tuesday 10-1

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Prayer of the Day:

Hymn of the Day:

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