

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



December 4th

Advent II

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Advent II Litany - Peace

The Peace of God-With-Us does not come as law and order, or enforcement and control.

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

The Peace of God-With-Us is chaotic, wild, unruly, unpredictable.

The Peace of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complicity.

Peace is gestating in the darkness; it comes unexpectedly.

Peace invites our expectation, and demands our participation.

Prepare the way, for peace with justice.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Advent Prayer & Candle Lighting

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist, and baptized with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

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 feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.***

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 \oplus 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+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.

Holy God, Spirit of Potential, Spirit of Possibilities, you hold us through seasons of
death or decay. May we trust in your promises as we welcome life's unfoldings,
whatever they may bring. With openness, with faith, with knowledge of your Love
that brings renewal, we strive to live with patient and active anticipation of your
Kindom come. **Amen.**

- Word -

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom:
The Spirit of YHWH will rest on you –
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH.
You will delight in obeying YHWH,
and you won't judge by appearances,
or make decisions by hearsay.
You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.
With a single word you will strike down tyrants;
with your decrees you will execute evil people.
Justice will be the belt around this your waist –
faithfulness will gird you up.
Then the wolf will lie down with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear;
their young will lie down together.
This lion will eat hay like the ox.
The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.
There will be no harm, no destruction
anywhere in my holy mountain;
for as the water fills the sea,
so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH.
On that Day, the root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world –
nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

Bring justice to the peoples,
O Beloved,
and your mercy to all generations!
**May the people be known for mercy,
rendering justice to the poor!**
Let their spirits soar as the eagle,
let joy abide in every heart!
**May we heed the cry of the poor –
the young and the old,
helping to free all those in need,
awakening the souls of the oppressors!**

May we know oneness with You
as long as the sun endures,
as long as the stars shine,
throughout all generations!
**May we acknowledge You in the rain
falling on the fields,
like showers that water the earth!**
In our day may justice flourish,
and peace abound,
throughout all the nations!

**Blessed be the Beloved, the One
who dwells in open hearts,
who guides us along the way.**
Blessed be You, who come in the
Name of Love;
may your glory fill the earth!
Amen and amen!

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

At this time, John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, “Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!”

It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said,
“A herald’s voice cries in the desert:
‘Prepare the way of our God,
make straight the paths of God!’”

John was clothed in a garment of camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Locusts and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.

When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath? Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And don’t pride yourselves on the claim, ‘Sarah and Abraham are our parents.’ I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones!

“Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I’m not fit even to untie the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Down by the Jordan – W&S 3045
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,
the 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.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers, theologians, and prophets throughout all of history. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation, especially the FISH Food Bank and the Warming Shelter. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones.

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](#)

- Meal -

Offering Prayer

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Preface – sung to the tune of “Adeste Fideles”

The Lord be with you.
And with you, God’s servant.
Oh come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.
With hearts uplifted thanks to God we render:
with joy we come before God,
in gratefulness implore God,
with thankful hearts adore God evermore!

Great Thanksgiving

Thanks and praise be to you, almighty Creator, God of promise and fulfillment. Of old, your faithful people waited for the day of your visitation, manifest at last when the time had fully come and you sent forth Jesus Christ, your Son. You comfort your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus – sung to the tune of “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored! Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name! Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh in the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing: hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!

The Consecration

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of Creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Together, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Disciples' Prayer – *sung to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, most holy be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth – in heav'n the same. Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be; into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You in grateful love we bow; and Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now. The glory Yours; Your praise be sung by angel hosts and all in ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! 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

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

- Sending -

Announcements

Sending Song:

Prepare the Royal Highway – ELW 264
verses 1+4

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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Hymn of the Day:

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