

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



January 15th
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Covenant Renewal Sunday

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Since the beginning, God has been relentlessly pursuing us in love.

Though our faithfulness ebbs and flows, God's love endures forever.

Taking on flesh like ours,
God became one with humanity in the person of Jesus Christ.

God lived and moved and ministered in the margins of power.

God incarnate was not what we expected.
We did not recognize God in Jesus.
Still, we struggle to recognize God with us.

And yet, God continues to dwell in our midst. Thanks be to God!

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Arise, Your Light Has Come!
ELW 314 – 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.

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

- Word -

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

From Paul, called by God's will to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, together with Sosthenes our brother.

To the church of God in Corinth, you who have been consecrated in Christ Jesus and called to be a holy people, as well as to all you, wherever they may be, call on the name of Jesus Christ, their Redeemer and ours:

Grace and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

I continually thank my God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been so confirmed among you that you lack no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revelation of our Savior Jesus Christ. God will strengthen you to the end, so that you can be blameless on the day of our Savior Jesus Christ. God, through whom you have been called into intimacy with Jesus our Savior, is faithful.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 40:1-11

Unyielding, I called to you, YHWH,
now at last you have stooped to me and answered my cry for help.

**You have pulled me out of the Pit of Destruction,
out of its mud and quicksand;
you set my feet on a rock
and made my steps firm.**

You put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise for you.

Many will look on in wonder
and so will put their trust in you.

**Happiness comes to those
who put their trust in YHWH,
instead of in human egos
or people blind to the truth!**

How many wonders you've worked for us,
YHWH, my God!

How many plans you've made for us;
you have no equal!

I want to recount them again and again.
but their number is too great.

**You don't desire sacrifice or oblation,
instead you made my ears receptive to you;
you asked no burnt offering
or sacrifice for sins from me.**

And so I declared,

"Here I am! I have come!

**In the scroll of the book
it is written about me."**

**I desire to do your will, my God,
and your law is written in my heart.**

I'll proclaim your justice
in the Great Assembly,
and I won't keep my mouth shut,
as you well know.

**I have never kept your generosity to myself,
but announced your faithfulness and saving action:
I have made no secret of your love and faithfulness
in the Great Assembly.**

For your part, YHWH,
don't withhold your love from me!
Let your kindness and faithfulness
constantly protect me

Gospel: John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

The next day, catching sight of Jesus approaching, John exclaimed, “Look! There’s God’s sacrificial lamb, who takes away the world’s sin! This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.’ I didn’t recognize him, but it was so that he would be revealed to Israel as I came baptizing with water.”

John also gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and she came to rest on him. I didn’t recognize him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘When you see the Spirit descend and rest on someone, that is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ Now I have seen for myself and have testified that this is the Only Begotten of God.

The next day, John was by the Jordan again with two of his disciples. Seeing Jesus walk by, John said, “Look! There’s the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard what John said and followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned around and noticed them following, he asked them, “What are you looking for?”

They replied, “Rabbi,” – which means “Teacher” – “where are you staying?”

“Come and see,” Jesus answered.

So they went to see where he was staying, and they spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

One of the two who had followed Jesus after hearing John was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. The first thing Andrew did was find Simon Peter and say, “We’ve found the Messiah!” – which means, “the Anointed One.”

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, who looked hard at him and said, “You are Simon ben-Jonah; I will call you ‘Rock’” – that is, Peter.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

The Summons
TFWS 2130 – verses 1, 4, 5

Wesley's Covenant Service

Introduction

Siblings in Christ,
Through baptism, we have entered life with God
and have been admitted into the new covenant
of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator.
Today, we meet, as the generations before us have met,
to renew the covenant that binds us to God.
Let us make this covenant of God our own.

Invitation

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,
others are more difficult and disgraceful.
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,
others are contrary to both.
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ
except by denying our wants and desires..
It is necessary, therefore,
that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

**Lord, make me what you will.
I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to serving,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time,
to be spent alone before the Lord;
in seeking earnestly God's special assistance
and gracious acceptance of you.

Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are,
and whether you, after having carefully considered them,
are willing to choose them all.

Second, be in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant,
rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,
so you can keep your promise.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.
You have given to the Lord your hearts,
you have opened your mouths to the Lord,
and you have dedicated yourself to God

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.
Bow your head, lift your hands toward heaven,
and open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

Covenant Prayer

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
see me as I come before you.
Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will,
for you have promised mercy to me
if I turn to you with my whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.
**I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all,
covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.
In your power
I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you.
For my own righteousness is riddled with sin,
unable to stand before you.**

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again
if you would allow it to be so.

**Before all heaven and earth,
I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.
I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,
and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ
to bridge the distance between the Holy and the human,
to be an offering of grace and mercy.
**Jesus, I do here accept Christ
as the new and living Way,
and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him.**

**O blessed Jesus, I come to you,
unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants.
I do here, with all my power, accept you as my God and Head.
I renounce my own worthiness,
and vow that you are my righteousness.
I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my guide.
I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.**

**I do here covenant with you, O Christ,
to take my lot with you as it may fall.
Through your grace I promise
that neither life nor death shall part me from you.**

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.
**I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions,
promising that I will strive
to order my whole life according to your direction,
and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.
**O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today
without guile or reservation.
If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.
O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you have now become my Covenant Friend.
And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant.
So be it.
And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.
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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways and in responding to devastating floods

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

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](#)

Offertory Prayer

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface - TFWS 2257-a

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus - TFWS 2257-b

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation - TFWS 2257-c

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Great Amen - TFWS 2257-d

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the
language you are most familiar with - the language of your heart.

**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

Invitation to the Table

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

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.
Amen.

- Sending -

Sending Song:

We Are Marching
TFWS 2235-b

Benediction & Dismissal

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.
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

Attributions

