

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



January 1st
Name of Jesus

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Holy among us!

Our spirits rejoice in the Way-Making God!

For God regards us with compassion and calls creation blessed.

God's mercy echoes through generations.

God scatters the imagination of the proud
into open fields of solidarity.

God puts down the mighty from their seats

and exalts those who care for their neighbors and planet home.

God nourishes the hungry

and sends exploiters away with empty spirits.

Our souls magnify the Holy among us!

Our spirits rejoice in the Way-Making God!

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Joy to the World – UMH 246
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.
Eternal God, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

When the designated time had come, God sent forth the Christ – born of a woman, born under the Law – to deliver from the Law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted heirs. The proof that you are children of God is the fact that God has sent forth into our hearts the Spirit of the Child who calls out “Abba!” You are no longer slaves, but daughters and sons! And if you are daughters and sons, you are also heirs, by God’s design.

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

Psalm 8

YHWH, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

You have placed your glory above the heavens!
**From the lips of infants and children
you bring forth words of power and praise,
to answer your adversaries
and to silence the hostile and vengeful.**

When I behold your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you set in place –
**what is humanity that you should be mindful of us?
Who are we that you should care for us?**
You have made us barely less than God,
and crowned us with glory and honor.
**You have made us responsible
for the works of your hands,
putting all things at our feet –**
all sheep and oxen, yes, even the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea
and whatever swims in the paths of the seas.

YHWH, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

Gospel: Luke 2:21-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

When the eighth day arrived for the child's circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it's written in the Law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." The likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God.

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the law, he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the peoples to see –
a light of revelation to the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel."

As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the downfall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well."

There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

That Boy-Child of Mary – ELW 293
verses 1, 3, 4

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

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus, and in him we are your beloved children. Unite us in mission through the power of his Spirit. Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Renewing God, restore your glory to the earth. Awaken humanity to our kinship with all living things that depend on your provision. Teach us to care for the earth and safeguard its treasures for those who come after us.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Peacemaking God, reconcile the nations. Lead those in conflict into negotiation, especially in areas of religious or ethnic strife. End acts of aggression and violence carried out in your name.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Delivering God, rescue our siblings in any danger, especially in communities where disaster and disease threaten. Move those in authority to respond with speed and compassion. We pray for the safety of first responders, health care workers, and all who protect us.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition

God of grace,

Hear 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](#)

- Meal -

Offering Prayer

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Preface – *sung to the tune of “Adeste Fideles”*

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

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

- Sending -

Announcements

Sending Song:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – ELW 288
verses 2+3

Benediction & Dismissal

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

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

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

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Prayer of the Day: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2022*

Hymn of the Day:

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