

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



January 22nd  
*3rd Sunday after Epiphany*

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## *- Gathering -*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leave behind what shrivels your spirit  
**and follow the lush lure of the Life-Giving.**

Leave behind the coldness of shoulds  
**and follow the warmth of Inner Wisdom.**

Leave behind the hollowness of image  
**and follow the rich depth of Beauty.**

Leave behind toxic positivity  
**and follow mourning, soulful and honest.**

Leave behind holding it all together  
**and follow that which breaks your heart open  
into a field of wildflowers.**

Dear people, follow the Thread of Love!  
**For She guides us in the Ways of Life.**

## 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

Gather Us In  
*ELW 532, verses 1 and 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.

Loving God, you call your people to be united as one whole, through your son, Jesus Christ. Guide us on this path to unity and commitment to one another, and show us how to abide with one another through mistakes with grace, so that we might grow into the new lives you have called us to live. it is through the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

## - Word -

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

I beg you, sisters and brothers, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, to agree in your message. Let there be no factions; rather, be united in mind and judgment. I have been informed, my sisters and brothers, by certain members of Chloe's household, that you are quarreling among yourselves. What I mean is, one of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," another, "I belong to Apollos," still another, "I belong to Cephas," still another, "I belong to Christ." What – has Christ been divided into parts? Was it Paul who was crucified for you? Was it in Paul's name that you were baptized? Frankly, I'm thankful I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that none of you can say you were baptized in my name! Oh yes, I did baptize the household of Stephanas, but no one else as far as I can remember.

The point is, Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel – not with human rhetoric, however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning! For the message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God.

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

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

YHWH, you are my light, my salvation –  
whom will I fear?  
You are the fortress of my life –  
of whom will I be afraid?

**One thing I ask of you, YHWH,  
one thing I seek:  
that I may dwell in your house  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on your beauty  
and to meditate in your Temple.**  
You will keep me safe in your shelter  
when trouble arises,  
you will hide me  
under the cover of you Tabernacle –  
you'll set me on a rock, high and out of reach.  
**Then I'll be able to hold my head up,  
even with my enemies surrounding me.  
I will offer in your Tabernacle  
sacrifices of great joy —  
I'll sing and make music to you, YHWH!**

Hear me when I call, YHWH!  
Have mercy on me and answer me!  
**You say to my heart, "Seek my face,"  
and so it is your face I seek!**  
Don't hide your face from me,  
don't turn your faithful one away in anger.  
Don't reject me, don't desert me,  
O God of my salvation,  
for you are my only help.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested he went back to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way, the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naaphtali,  
the way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles:  
the people who lived in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has been dawned.”

From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message, “Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers – Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew – casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, “Come and follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind.” They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus. Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers – James and John, ben-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore  
*UMH 344, verses 1 and 3*

Affirmation of Faith – Act of Faith, Augustana Lutheran Contemporary Liturgy

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

**We believe in God, Mother and Father of All,  
Who has called us all to work together to  
build a new world of Unity and Peace.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Our Brother,  
Who suffered, died and rose again for Us,  
that We might learn to live for Others,  
and find Hope in His victory over death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
in the power of Truth, of Peace and of Love.  
We believe in the Church,  
the unity and fellowship to which All are called,  
that We may heal the shattered world,  
and find a new and better Life,  
through Christ Our Redeemer, 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.*

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation (other ecumenical ministries in which the congregation takes part may be named).

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely.

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](#)

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Disciples' Prayer

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.**

## - Sending -

Sending Song:

Shine, Jesus, Shine  
*ELW 671, verses 1 and 3*

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  
[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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