

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



January 29th  
*4th Sunday after Epiphany*

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## *- Gathering -*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements – **Linda Boris**

Litany of Forgiveness – **Debby Chenoweth**

Lord God, too often we get it into our heads  
that what we do and who we are is all about  
our achievement, our wisdom, our status, our position.

**We convince ourselves that we are good and others are bad,  
that we are right and everybody else is wrong,  
that to every question we have the answer,  
that when things go awry it is always the fault of others—  
someone else is to blame.**

When we think and behave like this,  
we find ourselves drifting apart from you and separated from others,  
often the very ones you call us to serve.  
When this is our attitude, Lord, we are of little use to you.

**How easy it is for us to forget that it's your grace  
that finds us and rescues us and sustains us  
and that through your grace,  
the Spirit of Christ empowers us to serve as his disciples.**

Forgive our folly in insisting on our desires rather than yours.

**Forgive us when we rely on ourselves more than on your grace.**

Forgive us for choosing to see others  
with the eyes of human judgment, standards, and assessment.

**And teach us, by your Spirit, always to see each person we encounter and all those with whom we are in relationship with the eyes of Christ the Lord.**

Grant this, we pray, so that we might set ourselves to the business and joy of reconciliation in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn

We All Are One in Mission  
*ELW 576, verses 1-3*

Prayer of Reconciliation — Karen Jaeger

Let us pray,

O Lord our God, you made us in your likeness and gave us your son Jesus Christ.

O Christ our savior, by your cross, reconcile us across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old, people of different colors, social, economic, and political divides.

Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and lead us on the path of true repentance and reconciliation.

Today we pray O Lord our God, to be reconciled to you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Make us a new creation and help us live in Christ and for Christ alone. Forgive our transgressions, and through your great mercy and grace, bring healing to broken relationships and divisions amongst people from every nation, tribe, and tongue. **Amen!**

## - Word -

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8 – Sharon Poynter

Hear now what YHWH says:  
“Come, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice!  
Listen to YHWH’s indictment, you mountains  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for YHWH has a dispute with the people,  
and is putting Israel on trial.  
O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you?  
Give me an answer!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt.  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent Moses to lead you,  
and Aaron, and Miriam!  
My people, call to mind the plans  
devised by the ruler Balak of Moab,  
and how Balaam ben-Beor answered him!  
Remember the journey from Shittim to Gilgal,  
and recall how YHWH brought you justice!”

“What shall I bring when I come before YHWH,  
and bow down before God on high?” you ask.  
“Am I to come before God with burnt offerings?  
With year-old calves?  
Will YHWH be placated by thousands of rams  
or ten thousand rivers of oil? Should I offer my firstborn for my wrongdoings –  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

Listen here, mortal.  
God has already made abundantly clear  
what “good” is, and what YHWH needs from you:  
simply do justice,  
love kindness,  
and humbly walk with your God.

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

Psalm 15 – Sharon Poynter

Who has the right to enter your tent, YHWH,  
or to live on your holy mountain?

**Those who conduct themselves with integrity  
and work for justice,**

who speak the truth from their heart  
and do not use their tongue for slander,

**who do not wrong their neighbors  
and cast no discredit on their friends,**

who look with contempt on the corrupt  
but honor those who revere YHWH,

**who always keep their promises  
even when it hurts,**

who don't demand interest on loans  
and cannot be bribed to exploit the innocent.

**If people do these things,  
nothing can ever shake them.**

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 – David Jaeger

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit:

the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who are mourning:

they will be consoled.

Blessed are those who are gentle:

they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:

they will have their fill.

Blessed are those whose hearts are clean:

they will see God.

Blessed are those who work for peace:

they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted

because of their struggle for justice:

the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

“You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.”

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

[“The Secret to Creating Beloved Community”](#)

*Doug Shipman*

Hymn of the Day

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

*ELW 603, verses 1–5*

Affirmation of Faith – Augustana Lutheran Contemporary Liturgy – **Tom Hart**

*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 – Shelley Oates

*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 – Shelley Oates

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

*A brief silence.*

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together.

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 Love – Sharon Pantely

Let us have eyes to see, Lord, and ears to hear. Let us have eyes to see everyone in your beautiful creation for exactly who you created them to be and to declare them beautiful! Let us find ways to celebrate our uniqueness and not use it to degrade or demean. Let us have ears that truly hear and honor the hurt and struggles of our brothers and sisters across the earth! Let us be your ears, your voice, and your hands as we want to be part of the change that helps us all to move forward from the wrongs we have done to each other. Let us answer the prompting of the Holy Spirit to speak your truth and make a difference wherever we are. Let your love reign. **Amen.**

The Disciples' Prayer – Sharon Pantely

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:

Sent Out In Jesus' Name  
TFWS 2184

Benediction & Dismissal – **Linda Boris**

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

**Attributions**

Litany of Forgiveness: *Clifton Howard, UMC General Commission on Religion and Race*

Opening Hymn:

Prayer of Reconciliation: *Bishop Unda Yemba Gabriel, UMC General Commission on Religion and Race*

Hymn of the Day:

Prayers of the People: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2022 – adapted for this service by Rev. Bermes-Goller*

Prayer of Love: *Sally Voelkert, UMC General Commission on Religion and Race*

Sending Song:

Benediction: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2022*