

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



January 8th
Baptism of Jesus

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

There is a Wisdom that goes before us

This Wisdom weaves through all life

There is a Love that is ancient and still unfolding

From this Love, we are birthed

In this Love, we are held

To this Love, we will return

There is a Holy Presence that embraces us eternally

This Presence is here, bearing the flesh of the earth

Thanks be to God, Divinity with us and among us.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water – for the accumulating snowpack and glaciers on Mount Hood, melting down into the Hood River, rushing towards the great Columbia River – for the rain that nourishes animals and plants, for the water for drinking and bathing. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories – a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that healed leprosy. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus – baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda, washing the disciple's feet. We praise you, O God, for water,

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit. We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth. O God, you are River, saving us from death. O God, you are the fountain, granting us health and well-being. We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever. Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

Opening Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River – ELW 423
verses 1, 3, 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.

God of life and new life, we give you thanks on this day. For you sent your only begotten, your beloved, to lead the way for us into something new – your promised kingdom of justice and righteousness, of love and mercy. In the waters of baptism, wash us clean, and prepare us for a new life of divine relationship with you and your creation. In the name of Christ, who leads us on the way, we pray.

Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

“Here is my Servant, whom I uphold
my chosen one, in whom I delight!
I have endowed you with my Spirit
that you may bring true justice to the nations.
You do not cry out or raise your voice,
or make yourself heard in the street.
So gentle that you do not break a bruised reed,
or quench a wavering flame,
faithfully you will bring forth true justice.
You will neither waver nor be crushed
until justice is established on earth,
for the islands await your teaching!
Thus says YHWH,
who created the heavens and spread them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what it produces,
who gave life to its peoples and spirit to its inhabitants:
I, YHWH, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand, and I watch over you.
I have appointed you to be a covenant people,
a light to the nations:
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who sit in the darkness from the dungeon.
I am YHWH! This is my Name!
I will not yield my glory to another god
or my praise to idols!
See how former predictions have come true.
And now I declare new things!
Before they spring forth, I tell them to you.”

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

Psalm 29

Give glory to YHWH, you heavenly court,
give YHWH glory and strength!

**Give forth the glory that God's name deserves,
and worship YHWH in the splendor of holiness!**

The voice of YHWH resounds over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the raging seas.

**God's voice is powerful,
God's voice is full of majesty.**

The voice of YHWH snaps the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

**It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of YHWH strikes with bolts of lightning;
**the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,
the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of God twists the oaks,
and strips the forests bare;
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"

**YHWH sits in judgment over the flood;
YHWH is its Ruler forever.**

Give strength to your people, YHWH!
Bless your people with peace!

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you have come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

When Jesus Came to Jordan – UMH 252
verses 1–3

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.

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds (local water sources may be named). Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for peacemakers, and for our enemies.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving, experiencing crisis, or suffering in sickness of body, mind, or spirit.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom.

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:

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized – ELW 304
verses 1, 3, 4

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
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Prayer of the Day:

Hymn of the Day:

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