

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



February 26th, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

With dust of the earth and stars in our bones,
we gather in the presence of the One who formed us in their image.

We name the brokenness of your world,
and acknowledge the fragmentations of our souls.

Throughout these 40 days, O God, call us back to you,
that we might find the forgiveness we so desperately seek.

As Jesus followed the Spirit into the Wilderness,
we too trust your Divine Presence to lead us where we must go.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
ELW 325 – verses 1-3

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.

...

Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Then YHWH took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land. YHWH commanded the earth creature,

“You may eat as much as you like
from any of the trees of the garden –
except the Tree of
the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
You must not eat from that tree,
for on the day you eat from that tree,
that is the day you will die – yes, die.”

But the snake was even more smooth: the most cunning of all the animals that YHWH had made. The snake asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat from the trees in the garden?”

The woman answered the snake, “We may eat fruit from all the other trees in the garden. But of the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, “Don’t eat it and don’t touch it, or you will die.”

The snake said to the woman, “Die? You won’t die! God knows well that on the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil!”

The woman knew that the tree was enticing to the eye, and now saw that the food was good to eat – that it was desirable for the knowledge it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to the man beside her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Happiness comes from having your rebellion taken away,
from having your failure completely covered.

**Happiness comes from YHWH not counting your mistakes,
from having nothing to hide.**

As long as I kept my stubborn silence,
my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.

**Day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped by a summer's heat.**

Finally I admitted my sin to you,
and stopped hiding my guilt.
I said, "I confess my rebellion, YHWH,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

**That's why people of faith everywhere
should pray to you - they'll find you.
Even when the flood begins rising,
it will never touch them.**

You are my hiding place;
you'll protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of freedom.

**"I'll teach you
and show you the way you should walk;
I will counsel you,
and keep watch over you.**

Be wise! Don't be like horses and mules,
who need to be harnessed with bit and bridle
before they'll come to you."

**Wrongdoers are prone to many sorrows,
but those who trust in YHWH
are surrounded with unfailing love.**

Be glad in YHWH and rejoice, you who love justice!
Exult, you upright of heart!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, to be tempted by the Devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. Then the tempter approached and said, "If you are the Only Begotten, command these stones to turn into bread."

Jesus replied, "Scripture has it,
 'We live not on bread alone
 but on every utterance that comes
 from the mouth of God.'"

Next the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City, set him on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are the Only Begotten, throw yourself down. Scripture has it,
 'God will tell the angels to take care of you;
 with their hands they will support you
 that you may never stumble on a stone.'"

Jesus answered, "Scripture also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

The Devil then took Jesus up a very high mountain and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, promising, "All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me."

At this Jesus said to the Devil, "Away with you, Satan! Scripture says, 'You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.'"

At that the Devil left, and angels came and attended Jesus.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, Tempted in the Desert
TFWS 2105 – 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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(sung by all)

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, especially those throughout our community in the Columbia Gorge, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, church leaders, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world.

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love

Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.***

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](#)

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen

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:

When Peace Like a River
ELW 785 – verses 1, 3, 4

Benediction & Dismissal

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Go in peace. The Spirit of God is alive in you!
Thanks be to God!



1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-3993
www.hoodriverchurch.org

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

Attributions

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Opening Hymn:

Prayer of the Day: *written by Rev. Bermes-Goller*

Hymn of the Day:

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