

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



March 12th, 2023  
*Third Sunday of Lent*

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## *- 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

As the Deer RUn to the River  
*ELW 331 – verses 1-4*

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 curiosity and wonderings, you meet us at the well of Living Water and call us to leave our assumptions behind, that we might receive the expansive truth that comes with the fullness of your grace and mercy. Open our hearts to the transformations that are possible through your son and through your Spirit. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, we pray.  
**Amen.**

## - Word -

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

The Israelites left the desert of Syn to travel by stages, as YHWH had directed them. They camped at Raphidim, but found no drinking water.

Again they turned on Moses, saying, "Give us drinking water."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test YHWH?"

But the people were thirsty, and complained even more to Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt only to make us and our children and our livestock die of thirst?"

Moses appealed to YHWH. "What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

YHWH answered Moses, "Take some of the elders and move to the front of the people. Take with you the staff with which you struck the Nile. Go! I will wait for you there by the rock of Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."

And Moses did so, in sight of the elders.

Moses named the place Massah, "Testing," and Meribah, "Quarreing," for the Israelites tested YHWH when they said "Is YHWH with us or not?"

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95

Come, let us sing joyfully to God!

Raise a shout to our rock, our deliverance!

**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,  
and sing our praises with joy.**

For YHWH is a great God,  
the great Ruler above all gods.

**O God, in your hands are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks are yours.**

Yours is the sea, for you made it,  
the dry land as well, for your hands formed it.

**Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before YHWH, our Maker.**

For you are our God,  
and we are the people you shepherd,  
the flock under your care.

If only you would hear God's voice today!  
**“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the days of Massah in the desert,**  
where your ancestors tested me;  
they tested me even though  
they had seen my works.  
**For forty years that generation provoked me,  
until I said, ‘The hearts of these people go astray,  
and they do not know my ways.’**  
Then I took an oath in anger:  
‘They will never come to my place of rest.’”

Gospel: John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to John the 4th chapter.

Jesus stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob's Well was there. Jesus, weary from the journey, came and sat by the well. It was around noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.

The Samaritan woman replied, “You're a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?” – since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, “If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water.”

“If you please,” she challenged Jesus, “you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this ‘living water’? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life.”

The woman said to Jesus, “Give me this water, so that I won't grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband and then come back here.”

“I don't have a husband,” replied the woman.

“You're right – you don't have a husband!” Jesus exclaimed. “The fact is, you've had five, and the man you're living with now is not your husband. So what you've said is quite true.”

“I can see you’re a prophet,” answered the woman. “Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped.”

Jesus told her, “Believe me, the hour is coming when you’ll worship Abba God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you don’t understand; we worship what we do understand – after all, salvation is from the Jewish people. Yet the hour is coming – and is already here – when real worshippers will worship Abba God in Spirit and in truth. Indeed, it is just such worshippers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Jesus, “I know that the Messiah – the Anointed One – is coming and will tell us everything.”

Jesus replied, “I who speak to you am the Messiah.”

The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus in private conversation with a woman. But no one dared ask, “What do you want of him?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people, “Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But Jesus told them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

At this, the disciples said to one another, “Do you think someone has brought him something to eat?”

Jesus explained to them,

“Doing the will of the One who sent me  
and bringing this work to completion  
is my food.

Don’t you have a saying,  
‘Four months more  
and it will be harvest time’?

I tell you,  
open your eyes and look at the fields –  
they’re ripe and ready for harvest!  
Reapers are already collecting their wages;  
they’re gathering fruit for eternal life,  
and sower and reaper will rejoice together.

So the saying is true:

‘One person sows, another reaps.’

I have sent you to reap  
what you haven’t worked for.

Others have done the work,  
and you’ve come upon the fruits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman's testimony – that "he told me everything I ever did." The result was that, when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. They told the women, "No longer does our faith depend on your story. We've heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world."

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Fill My Cup, Lord  
W&S – verses 1-3

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.

*A brief silence.*

*(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.***

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness. Give them your living water always.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*(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.*

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

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
We give you thanks, this day and always  
that you have poured out your very presence among us  
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:

For All the Faithful Women  
*ELW 419 - verses 1, 8, and 2*

## 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](http://www.hoodriverchurch.org)

**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**

Call to Worship: *written by Rev. Bermes-Goller*

Confession & Forgiveness: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2023*

Opening Hymn:

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

Hymn of the Day:

Prayers of the People: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2023 – adapted for this service by Rev. Bermes-Goller*

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Sending Song:

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