

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



June 18th, 2023
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Love calls us to beware. To keep alert. To pay attention.

Evil will react when the Kingdom draws near.

Like sheep among wolves,

the truth-tellers will be preyed upon.

The healers will be ridiculed.

The ones who raise life from death will be handed over.

In knowledge of evil's ways,
we watch and we take action.

We protect each other.

We examine our hearts.

We trust the Spirit to give us courage.

The Faithful One will uphold the righteous and deliver us from evil.

Let God's holy presence come and manifest among us.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Rise Up, O Saints of God!
ELW 669 – verses 1-5

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 compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself, showing us how to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven among your people. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and humble ourselves to receive your good news from others in return. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Now since we have been made right in God's sight by our faith, we are at peace with God through our Savior Jesus Christ. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to the day on which we will become all that God has intended. But not only that – we even rejoice in our afflictions! We know that affliction produces perseverance; and perseverance produces character; and character, hope. And such hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us godless people. It is not easy to die even for a good person – though of course for someone really worthy, there might be someone prepared to die – but the proof of God's love is that Christ died for us even while we were sinners.

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

Psalm 100

Acclaim YHWH with joy,
all the earth!
Serve YHWH with gladness!
Enter into God's presence with a joyful song!
Know that YHWH is God!
YHWH made us, and we belong to the Creator;
we are God's people
and the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving
and the courts with praise!
Give thanks to God!
Bless God's Name!
For YHWH is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness
to all generations.

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 9th chapter.

Jesus continued touring all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of God's reign and curing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses.

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to the disciples, "The harvest is bountiful but the laborers are few. Beg the overseer of the harvest to send laborers out to bring in the crops."

Jesus summoned the Twelve, and gave them authority to expel unclean spirits and heal sickness and diseases of all kinds.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: the first were Simon, nicknamed Peter – that is, "Rock" – and his brother Andrew; then James, ben-Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; THomas; Matthew, the tax collector; James, ben-Alphaeus; Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

These twelve Jesus sent out after giving them the following instructions:

"Don't visit Gentile regions, and don't enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The reign of heaven has drawn near.'

"Heal those who are sick, raise the dead, cure leprosy, expel demons. You received freely – now freely give.

"Take neither gold nor silver nor copper for your money belts – no traveling bag, no change of clothes, no sandals, no walking staff – for workers deserve their keep.

"Look for worthy people in whatever town or village you come to, and stay with them until you leave. As you enter a house, bless it. If the home is deserving, your peace will descend on it. If it isn't, your peace will return to you.

"If anyone does not receive you or listen to what you have to say, leave that house or town and, once outside it, shake its dust from your feet. The truth is, on Judgement Day it will go easier for the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah than it will for that town.

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So you must be as clever as snakes, but as innocent as doves. Be on your guard. People will haul you into court, they will flog you in the synagogues. For my sake you will be dragged before rulers and governors as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

"When they hand you over, don't worry about how to speak or what to say. You'll be given what you should say when the time comes, because it is not you speaking but the Spirit of your Abba God speaking through you.

“Sibling will betray sibling to death, and parents their children; children will rise up against their parents and have them executed. Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. The truth is, you will not have visited all the towns of Israel before the Chosen One comes.

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

I Love to Tell the Story
ELW 661 – verses 1-3

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together:

**We are not alone
we live in God’s world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our redeemer and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. 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

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

For the church here and around the world, we pray. Seek out disciples and send them out with authority to proclaim good news, bring healing where there is pain, and counter the forces of evil.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the earth and all its creatures, we pray. Equip farmers, farm workers, and all who labor on the land to produce a harvest. Nourish crops with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Restore lands ruined by pollution or misuse.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those who govern, we pray. Empower those who seek peaceful solutions to conflict and embolden those who advocate for all who are oppressed. Work through systems of government to establish justice throughout the world.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those who suffer, we pray. Accompany those who feel helpless, alone, or abandoned. Embrace any who long for successful treatment for mental illness or freedom from addiction. Heal those who are sick or suffering in any way.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For fathers and father figures, we pray. Console all who long to be fathers, children estranged from their fathers, anyone grieving the death of a father, and fathers who have lost a child. Draw near to all for whom this day stirs up difficult emotions.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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](#)*

Offertory Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Preface - TFWS 2257-a

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day
when justice shall roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus - TFWS 2257-b

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
At his ascension you exalted him
to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation - TFWS 2257-c

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Great Amen - TFWS 2257-d

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.**

Invitation to Communion

This table of bread and wine has now been made ready.
So come to this table,
You who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here long
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come and eat. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

Communion Distribution

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending Song:

Go to the World
W&S 3158 – verses 1-4

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.
Amen

Dismissal

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
Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

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Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed – Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

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