

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



July 9th, 2023
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Come all who are weary
of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division

Come all who are heavy-laden
with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger

Come all who have hope
for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom

Hear these words and know them to be true:
“See, I am making all things new.”

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

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
ELW 608 – 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 comfort and consolation – you call us to lay down our burdens at your feet, and take up the yoke of Christ. Send your Spirit to show us that which we need to release, and that which we need to take on, so that we may journey closer to your divine love and presence in this world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Romans 7:15-25

I don't understand what I do – for I do the things I don't want to do, but rather the things I hate. And if I do the very thing I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the Law is good. Consequently, what is happening in me is not really me, but sin living in me.

I know that no good dwells in me, that is, in my human nature; the desire to do right is there, but not the power. What happens is that I don't do the good I intend to do, but the evil I do not intend. But if I do what is against my will, it is not I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. This means that even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always at hand. My inner self joyfully agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body's members another law, in opposition to the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members. How wretched I am! Who can free me from this body under the power of death! Thanks be to God — it is Jesus Christ our Savior! This, then, is the problem: I serve the law of God with my mind, but I serve the law of sin with my flesh.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-14

YHWH, you are gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

**YHWH, you are good to all
and compassionate toward all your creatures.**

All you creatures will praise you, YHWH,
and your holy people will bless you.

**They will tell of the glory of your reign
and speak of your strength.**

You make known to all humankind
your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your reign.

**Your reign is a reign for all the ages,
and your dominion endures
from generation to generation.**

You lift up those who are falling
and raise up those who are oppressed.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Jesus addressed the crowd,

“What comparison can I make with this generation? They are like children shouting at each other as they sit in the marketplace. ‘We piped you a tune, but you wouldn’t dance. We sang you a dirge, but you wouldn’t mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He is possessed.’ The Chosen One comes, eating and drinking, and they say, ‘This one is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of the tax collectors and sinners.’ Wisdom will be vindicated by her own actions.”

Then Jesus prayed, “Abba God, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the cleaver, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Abba, everything is as you want it to be.”

Jesus continued,

“Everything has been handed over to me
by Abba God.

No one knows the Only Begotten
except Abba God,

and no one knows Abba God

except the Only Begotten –

and those to whom the Only Begotten
wants to give that revelation.

Come to me, all you who labor and carry heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon your shoulders
and learn from me,

for I am gentle and humble of heart.

Here you will find rest for your souls,

for my yoke is easy

and my burden is light.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Give Me Jesus
ELW 770 – verses 1, 2, 3, 5

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.

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. We give you thanks for all those who dedicate their lives to protecting and preserving your creation – and especially those who put themselves in harm's way to contain the Tunnel 5 fire in Washington this week.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need, and make your presence known among all who suffer.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around your word. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

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](#)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.
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.

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 Song:

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
TFWS 2158 – verses 1-3

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
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Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship: from I Am Making All Things New, written by Rosie Venner. Posted on the WSCF Europe website.

<http://wscf-europe.org/mozaik-issues/mozaik-25-the-powers-that-be/worship-i-am-making-all-things-new/>

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

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