

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



August 13th, 2023
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Listen! Listen for the voice of God, naming us all: Holy. Beloved. Cherished. Valued.

We believe you delight in us!

Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness in unexpected places.

Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.

We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life, of every way of being, of every physical manifestation of your Spirit.

May it be so!

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

Bring Many Names
Bulletin Insert, verses 1, 2, 3, 6

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 change and transformation – in the stories of scripture, we hear the sacred truth time and time again that your expansive love knows no bounds. Help us to embody your way of welcome, that we may know love and show love in all that we say and do. In the name of your son, Jesus of Nazareth, who modeled for us this way, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1-8

Thus says YHWH:

“Do what is right! Work for justice!
For my liberation is about to come,
and my justice is about to be revealed.”

Happy is the person who does this,
and happy is the person who holds to it –
who observes the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and keeps one’s hands from evil deeds.

Foreigners who would follow YHWH should not say,
“YHWH will surely exclude me from this people.”

Nor should the eunuch say,
“And I am a dried-up tree.”

For thus says YHWH:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath,
who choose that which pleases me
and hold fast to my Covenant –
to them I will create within my Temple and its walls a memorial,
and a name better than that of daughters and sons.

I will give them an everlasting name
that will not be excised.

And the foreigners who join themselves to me,
ministering to me,
loving the name of YHWH and worshiping me –
all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it,
and cling to my Covenant –
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!”

Thus says the Sovereign YHWH,
who gathers the diaspora of Israel:

“There are others I will gather
besides those already gathered,”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what you have to say, YHWH –
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for your people and your friends
so long as they don't return to their folly.

**Your salvation is near for those who revere you
and your glory will dwell in our land.**

Love and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

**Fidelity will sprout from the earth
and justice will lean down from heaven.**

YHWH will give us what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.

**Justice will march before you, YHWH,
and peace will prepare the way for your steps.**

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 14th chapter.

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out.

Jesus hastened to reassure them: "Don't worry, it's me! Do not be afraid!"

Peter spoke up and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water." "Come!" Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter. "You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him. "Why did you doubt?"

Once they had climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Expansive God Sermon Series: A God Who Changes
Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Ask the Complicated Questions
lyrics on screen

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 grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of earth, sea, and sky, we lament the harm that has been done to your sacred creation – the abuse and exploitation that have diminished resources and permanently altered ecosystems. Send your healing and comforting presence to all those affected by the Maui fires, and lend your strength and protection to first responders in harm's way. May we learn to change our ways, and see the lasting impact our actions have on your precious earth.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest.

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. Amn.**

Sending Song:

My Life Flows on in Endless Song
ELW 763 – verses 1, 2, 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

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

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