

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



October 22nd, 2023
21st Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful.

Gather us in, the weak and the strong.

Gather us in, the fearful and the brave.

Gather us in, the young and the old.

Gather us in, to sing of God's works.

Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.

Gather us in, to worship and wonder.

Gather us in, to know of God's love.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us come before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come, Now is the Time to Worship
lyrics on screen, sung three times

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 wisdom, God of justice, you have set your word of life in our hearts to show us how to live according to your will and your way. In all that we say, all that we do, and all that we uphold in this life be so grounded in you, that our lives may serve as the seeds of your kingdom on this earth. In the name of Christ, who taught us this way, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

“Thus says YHWH to the Anointed One, Cyrus,
whom I have taken by the right hand,
for whom I have subdued the nations,
stripped the loins of monarchs,
and thrown open all doors
so that even the town gates cannot be shut:
I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will shatter the bronze doors
and cut through the bars of iron.
I will give you the hidden treasures,
and hoards from secret places,
so that you know I am YHWH,
Israel’s God, who calls you by name.
For the sake of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, my Servant,
and for the sake of Israel, my chosen one,
I called you by name, conferring on you an honored title,
even though you do not know me.
I am YHWH, and there is no other;
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you,
though you know me not,
that nations may know
from the rising to the setting of the sun
that there is no one besides me.
I am YHWH, there is no other.
I form light and create darkness.
I make peace and create calamity.
It is I, YHWH,
who do all these things.

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

Psalm 96:1-13

Sing to YHWH a new song!
Sing to YHWH, all the earth!
Sing to YHWH, bless God's Name!
Proclaim God's salvation day after day;
declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvel to every people.
YHWH is great, most worthy of praise,
YHWH is to be revered above all gods.
The gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist – but YHWH created the universe.
In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.
Pay tribute to YHWH, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.
Pay tribute to the glorious Name of YHWH;
bring out the offering, and carry it into God's courts.
Worship YHWH, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!
Say among nations,
"YHWH reigns supreme!"
The world stands firm and unshakeable:
YHWH will judge each nation with strict justice.
Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that it holds!
Let the fields exult and all that is in them!
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy
at the presence of YHWH, for God is coming.
God is coming to rule the earth –
to rule the world with justice
and its people with truth!

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.

Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, "Teacher, we know you're honest and teach God's way sincerely. You court no one's favor and don't act out of respect for important people. Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?"

Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, "Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax." When they handed Jesus a small roman coin, Jesus asked them, "Whose head is this, and whose inscription?"

"Caesar's" they replied.

At that, Jesus said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."

When they heard this, they were astonished and went away.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
ELW 834 – verses 1, 2, 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 the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray to you in this time of war and conflict in the Holy Land. Help us in our confusion, and guide us in our actions and responses. Lead us in the way of solidarity with the oppressed and peace for all people. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need to not stay silent in situations of injustice.

Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver all who are still in peril.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy.

God of grace,

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

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
bearing your Spirit of love and strength in our hearts.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
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:

Lord of the Dance (I Danced in the Morning)
UMH 261 – verses 1, 2, 5

Blessing

May the God of all Creation,
in Christ, the embodiment of Love,
and through the everlasting presence of Holy Spirit
⊕ 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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M-Th 9-1, or by appointment

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Attributions

Call to Worship – written by Mary J. Scifres, and posted on the Ministry Matters website.

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

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