

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



October 29th, 2023  
*Reformation Sunday*

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Prelude

*Spirit of Grace Bell Choir*

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

A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
*ELW 504 – verses 1+2*

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.

Abba God, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to walk among us on earth as the divine enfleshed, to call us back to your will and remind us of the foundation of your law, which is love. In all that we do, all that we say, all that we are, and all that we strive to become – may it all flow from your divine love and grace. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who taught us this way, we pray.

**Amen.**

First Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that what the Law says is said to those under the Law. Therefore, let every mouth be silenced, and let all of humankind be open to God's judgment. This is because we are not justified in the sight of God by keeping the Law: law only makes us aware of sin.

But now, the justice of God has been manifested apart from the Law, even though both Law and prophets bear witness to it; the justice of God works through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. There are no exceptions: everyone has sinned; everyone falls short of the glory of God. Yet everyone has also been undeservedly justified by the gift of God, through the redemption wrought in Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a propitiatory sacrifice, for the atonement of all who have faith in Christ's blood. And God did so to manifest divine justice – because God showed forbearance by remitting sins committed in the past, in order to demonstrate divine justice in the present – so that the Most High might be both a just judge and the One who justifies those who believe in Jesus.

What room is there then for boasting? It is ruled out. In what law do we boast – the law of works? No: only the law of faith. We maintain that one is justified by faith – apart from keeping the Law.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength,  
who from of old has helped us in our distress.

**Therefore we fear nothing –  
even if the earth should open up in front of us  
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea,  
even if the earth's waters rage and foam  
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.**

**There's a river whose streams  
gladden the city of God,  
the holy dwelling of the Most High.**

God is in its midst, it will never fall –  
God will help it at daybreak.

**Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,  
God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.**

YHWH Sabaoth is with us –  
our stronghold is the God of Jacob!

**Come, see what YHWH has done –  
God makes the earth bounteous!**  
God has put an end to war,  
from one end of the earth to the other,  
breaking bows, splintering spears,  
and setting chariots on fire.  
**“Be still, and know that I am God!  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted upon the earth.”**

YHWH Sabaoth is with us –  
our stronghold is the God of Jacob!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?”  
Jesus answered:

“You must love the Most High God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul, and  
with all your mind.’

“That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based – and the prophets as well.”

While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?”

They said, “David’s”

Then Jesus asked, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign’? For he says,

‘The Most High said to my Sovereign,  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I place your enemies under your foot.”’

“If David calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign,’ how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?”

No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Pass it On (It Only Takes a Spark)  
*UMH 572 – 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 the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. Stir in us a desire for your wisdom.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict.

*We pray to you especially in this time of war, oppression, and persecution 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 – give us the strength we need to not stay silent in situations of injustice. Heal the hurt and harm, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver all who are still in peril.*

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and John Wesley, and for all whose example has brought us closer to you.

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

*Spirit of Grace Bell Choir*

*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 power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Preface - TFWS 2257-a**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.  
God of Abraham and Sarah,  
God of Miriam and Moses,  
God of Joshua and Deborah,  
God of Ruth and David,  
God of the priests and the prophets,  
God of Mary and Joseph,  
God of the apostles and the martyrs,  
God of our mothers and our fathers,  
God of our children to all generations.  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.  
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.

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.

Renew our communion with all your saints,  
especially Martin Luther, John Wesley,  
and all the reformers of faith who have led your people to your Truth

Strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us,  
looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.  
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 God, now and forever.

**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

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

Sending Song:

All Are Welcome  
*ELW 641 – verses 1, 3, 4, 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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[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 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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