

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



October 8th, 2023
19th 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

Open Our Eyes
TFWS 2086, 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.

Creator God, you made this world and everything in it, and called your people to do your work, tending to the fruit of the vine and feeding your people. When our selfish hearts lead us astray, call us back to you. Through your endless mercy and forgiveness, we are born anew. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me now sing of my friend –
it is a love song about a vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
My friend dug the soil, cleared the stones, and planted the choicest vines;
then within it built a watchtower,
and constructed a winepress.
My friend anticipated the crop of grapes,
but what it yielded was rotten grapes.
“Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah –
judge between me and my vineyard:
What more could I have done for my vineyard
that I haven’t done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth bad fruit?
Now I will let you know
what I mean to do to my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it over to grazing,
break through its wall, let it be trampled!
I will let it go to wilderness;
it will not be pruned or hoed,
but overgrown with thorns and briars.
I will command the clouds
not to send rain upon it.”
The vineyard of YHWH Omnipotent
is the house of Israel
and the people of Judah are God’s cherished vine.
YHWH looked for justice, but found only bloodshed;
for righteousness, but found only a cry of suffering.

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

Psalm 80:7-15

O God of hosts, return to us –
let your face smile on us and we will be saved!

There was a vine:
you uprooted it from Egypt;
to plant it, you drove out other nations.
You cleared a space where it could grow;
it took root and filled the land –
it covered the mountains with its shade,
and its branches were like the cedars of God;
its tendrils stretched out over the Sea,
its offshoots all the way to the Euphrates.
Why, then, have you destroyed its wall
so that all who pass can steal its grapes?
The forest boar can trample it
and the creatures of the field can eat it.

Please, O God of hosts, come back!
Look down from heaven,
and watch over this vine,
the root planted by your own hand,
the shoot you have raised up as your own.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

[Jesus said to the chief priests and Pharisees] “Listen to another parable. There was a property owner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, installed a winepress and erected a tower. Then the owner leased it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey.

“When vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. The tenants responded by seizing the aides. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. Finally, the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my heir.’

“When the vine growers saw the heir, they said to one another, ‘Here’s the one who stands in the way of our having everything. With a single act of murder we could seize the inheritance.’ With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?”

They replied, “The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others, who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietors at vintage time.”

Jesus said to them, “Did you ever read in the scriptures,

‘The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone;
it was our God’s doing,
and we find it marvelous to behold’?

“That’s why I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to people who will bear its fruit.

“Those who fall on this stone will be dashed to pieces, and those on whom it falls will be smashed.”

When the chief priests and Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. Although they sought to arrest him, they feared the crowds, who regarded Jesus as a prophet.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

My Song is Love Unknown
ELW 343 – verses 1, 2, 6

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 of all creation, you plant and nourish the earth as your own precious vineyard. Bless fields and orchards and the hands of those who labor in them, that your people are fed with an abundant harvest of good fruit.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of all the earth, you desire peace and justice between nations and peoples. Guide leaders of nations, states, provinces, and cities, that they faithfully govern your people with wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of all compassion, in Christ, you lovingly poured yourself out like wine for your people. Have mercy on all who mourn, who struggle with their mental health, who cry out for justice, who hunger, and all in any need.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of all steadfastness, you set Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of the church. Build up this congregation as living stones, that it stands in the community as a witness to your enduring faithfulness and love.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of all hope, the saints who came before us lived and died with their hearts fixed on you. We give you thanks for their faithful witness, and we wait with hope for the great day when we join their voices in praise.

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:

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
UMH 368 – verses 1, 3, 4

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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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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