

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



January 14th, 2024
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
-Home Worship-

Welcome & Announcements

Grounding Prayer

God of the prophets, call to us today.
Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us.
Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You.
Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
God of all creation, help us to know Your ways.
We gather to hear Your call,
to sing Your praise,
to teach each other,
to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.
Amen.

Centering Hymn

God is Here Today
sung twice through

Psalm 139:1-18 (from Nan C. Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

O my Beloved, You have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my innermost thoughts.
You find me on the journey and guide my steps;
You know my strengths and my weaknesses.
Even before words rise up in prayer,
Lo, You have already heard my heart call.
You encompass me with love wherever I go,
and your strength is my shield.
Such sensitivity is too wonderful for me;
it is high; boundless gratitude is my soul's response.

Where could I go from your Spirit?
Or how could I flee from your Presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there!
If I make my bed in darkness, You are there!
If I soar on the wings of the morning
or dwell in the deepest parts of the sea,
Even there your Hand will lead me.
If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You,
the night dazzles as with the sun;
the darkness is as light with You.

For You formed my inward being,
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You, for You are to be revered and adored.
Your mysteries fill me with wonder!
More than I know myself do You know me;
my essence was not hidden from You,
When I was being formed in secret,
intricately fashioned from the elements of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
in your records were written every one of them,
The days that were numbered for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
How precious to me are your creations, O Blessed One!
How vast is the sum of them!
Who could count your immeasurable gifts and blessings?
At all times, You are with me.

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter:

The next day, after Jesus had decided to leave for Galilee, he met Philip and said, "Follow me." Philip came from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter. Philip sought out Nathanael and said to him, "We've found the One that Moses spoke of in the Law, the One about whom the prophets wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph.

"From Nazareth?" said Nathanael, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

"Come and see," replied Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he remarked, "This one is a real Israelite. There is no guile in him."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked him.

Jesus answered, "Before Philip even went to call you, while you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you."

"Rabbi," said Nathanael, "you're God's Own; you're the ruler of Israel!"

Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you under the fig tree? You'll see much greater things than that."

Jesus went on to tell them, "The truth of the matter is, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Chosen One."

Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

We conclude our service this day by praying 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.**

Blessing

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Spirit of God is alive in you!
Thanks be to God!



1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031

541-386-3993

www.hoodriverchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

M-Th 9-1, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship: written by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog, sourced from re-worship.blogspot.com

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