

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



January 28th, 2024
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

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.**

Centering Hymn

God is Here Today
sung twice through

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Rise, Shine, You People!
ELW 665 – verses 1-4

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.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[And Moses said] YHWH, your God, will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; to that prophet you must listen. It was this that you asked of YHWH, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, "Let us not hear again the voice of YHWH, our God, nor see this great fire again, or we will die."

And YHWH said to me, "This is well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their people, into whose mouth I will put my words, and that person will tell them all that I command. If any person will not listen to the words which my prophet speaks in my Name, I myself will call that person to answer for this. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my Name a message I have not commanded to be spoken, or speaks in the name of other gods – that prophet will die."

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 (from Nan C. Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

Praise the Beloved, O my soul!
I will give thanks to You with my whole heart,
to all who will listen, I will tell of your goodness.
Wondrous is Creation, Great Builder;
I take pleasure in pondering your Work.
Full of honor and integrity are your teachings;
those who follow them will find new life.
You lift the hearts of those who suffer;
You come to them in their need.

Your steadfast Love is food for the soul,
nourishment in times of fear.
You are ever-mindful of your covenant,
a very Presence to the weary and afflicted.
Your Voice is truth to those with ears to hear,
your precepts are sure;
Written on the hearts of your people,
they are to be lived forever
with faith-filled love and assurance.
You bring new life to the world;
Yes! life in abundance is your gift to us.
Holy and glorious is your Name!
Reverence for You, O Holy One,
is the beginning of wisdom;
a good understanding have all who practice it.
Your Spirit endures forever!

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter:

They came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. The people were spellbound by the teaching, because Jesus taught with an authority that was unlike their religious scholars.

Suddenly, a person with an unclean spirit appeared in their synagogue. It shrieked, "What do you want from us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked the spirit sharply: "Be quiet! Come out of that person!" At that the unclean spirit convulsed the possessed one violently, and with a loud shriek it came out.

All who looked on were amazed. They began to ask one another, "What is this? A new teaching, and with such authority! This person gives orders to unclean spirits and they obey!" Immediately, news of Jesus spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

There is a Balm in Gilead
ELW 614 – 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 God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer.

We pray to you especially in this time of war, oppression, and genocide in the Holy Land. 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 remain in peril.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care.

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

God of Abundance
you are the giver of every good gift,
and all that blesses us comes from you.
Receive that which you have first given us,
strengthen us to your service,
and send us out into the world
that we might be filled with
the power of the Holy Spirit
and raised to new life in Christ.
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, Speak to Me
UMH 463 – verses 1-4

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!



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Attributions

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

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