

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



February 11th, 2024  
*Transfiguration Sunday*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Beyond our busyness,  
Above the cold winter floor  
there is a glory rising born of heaven  
and reaching out to each one of us

**a light that shines through the clouds  
an invitation seeking all of who we are  
that transfigures the world**

that transforms darkness into hope  
that brings life from a cross  
where old life ends and new life is born

**In glory Jesus meets us here  
raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain  
carrying the weight of our humanity  
to the heights of heavens glory.**

Let us worship from the mountain and hear again  
"This is my Only Begotten, my Chosen; listen to him!"

## 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
*ELW 631 – verses 1-3*

## 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.

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

If our Gospel can be called veiled in any sense, it is only for those who are headed toward destruction. Their unbelieving minds have been blinded by the god of the present age, so that they do not see the splendor of the Gospel showing forth the glory of Christ, the image of God. It is not ourselves we preach, but Christ Jesus as Sovereign, and ourselves as your workers for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts, so that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6 (from Nan C. Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

The Beloved, through the energy of Love,  
brought forth the world.

**From the rising to the setting sun,  
Love radiates out to all nations  
perfect in beauty.**

The Beloved has come and will not keep silence;  
for Divine Love is a consuming Fire,  
calling forth heaven and earth  
to the judgment of all peoples:

**“Gather around, my loyal friends,  
all who by repentance and recompense  
follow the Inner Way.”**

The universe forever proclaims justice,  
And, the Beloved's Indwelling Presence  
guides those who hear with their heart's ear.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-9

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 9th chapter:

Six days after [Jesus began to tell the disciples about what was to come], Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; the clothes which Jesus wore became dazzling white – whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is to be here! Let us make three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!” Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: “This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One.” Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore – only Jesus.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Promised One had risen from the dead.

Word of God, for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Jesus on the Mountain Peak  
*ELW 317 – verses 1-4*

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

We pray for any who are sick and suffering. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need.

*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.**

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter.

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.**

## Burying of the Alleluia

When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified.

### **Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.**

Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross.

### **Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.**

Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me."

### **Sometimes we must let go of our Alleluia.**

For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia."

### **Sometimes we must let go of our Alleluia.**

At Easter, we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing, "Christ is risen."

### **In God's time, we will find our Alleluia!**

Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer,  
it is our joy to sing and say "Alleluia"  
as response to your conquering sin and death.  
Now, during the days of Lent  
we say farewell to "Alleluia"  
so that we may take it up anew on Easter.  
**Amen.**

Sending Song:

We Are Marching in the Light  
*ELW 866 – 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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**Church Office Hours**

**Closed on Fridays**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

M-Th 9-1, or by appointment

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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**

Tuesday 10-1

**Attributions**

Call to Worship: written by Rev. Rob Smith, Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church, Apple Valley, MN

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