

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



February 18th, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Spirit of Grace Bell Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**Lent calls us to journey:
to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.**

Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Beloved Siblings in Christ, here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Baptized in Water
TFWS 2248 – 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.

Holy God, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Scripture Acclamation

*Words of life, words of hope
give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where e'er we roam,
ancient words will guide us home.*

*Ancient words, ever true
changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts.
O let the ancient words impart.*

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

God then said to Noah and his family, "I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you – birds, cattle, and the earth's wildlife – everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you: All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth.

God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generation: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth."

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25 (from Nan C. Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

To You, O Love, I lift up my soul!
O Heart within my heart,
in you I place my trust.

**Let me not feel unworthy;
let not fear rule over me.**

Yes! May all who open their hearts
savor You and bless the earth!

**Compel me to know your ways, O Love;
instruct me upon your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for through You will I know wholeness;
I shall reflect your Light both day and night.

I know of your mercy, Blessed One,
and of your unconditional Love;
You have been with me from the beginning.
Forgive the many times I have walked away from You
choosing to follow my own will.
**I seek your guidance, once again,
I yearn to know your Peace.
Companion me as I open to your Will!**

You are gracious and just,
O Spirit of Truth,
happy to guide those who miss their way;

**You enjoy teaching all who are open,
all who choose to live in truth.**
Your paths are loving and sure, O Holy One,
and those who give witness to You through their lives
are blessed beyond measure.

**Yet, all too often glorious gifts
of Grace, of Love and Light,
are veiled by my busyness.**
I bow down before You;
instruct me, that I might choose
the way of love and truth.
**I would live in your abundant Love,
and my children as well.**

Your friendship is offered to all
whose hearts are open;
You make known your promises to them.
**My eyes are ever on You, Beloved,
keep my feet from stumbling along the way.**

Turn to me, O Holy One, and envelop me with your love,
for I am lonely and oppressed.
**Relieve the blocks in my heart
that keep me separated from You;**
See all the darkness within me;
fill it with your healing Light.
**Look at my pain and all my fears;
they shut out love and life.**

Protect me and free me;
let me not live as unworthy,
for I would return Home to You.

**May integrity and wholeness fill me
as I dwell with You, O Loving Presence.**

May we, together with the angels and the company of heaven,
help unfold your Plan for planet earth.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter:

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests." Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days
ELW 319 – 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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people to the ways we are called to grow and change with the movement of your Spirit.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation.

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. Use our voices to speak out against 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.

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling.

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

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
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.
You brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.
When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.
When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

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.
When you gave him to save us from our sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.
When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.
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.
Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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.

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 for ever.

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

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

Sending Song:

Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope)
TFWS 2186, sung twice through

Blessing

Beloved Siblings in Christ,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ☩ give you peace.
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 Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

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