

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



May 12th, 2024
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!
We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.

Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.
We abide in Love because Love abides in us.

Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come and know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.
We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.

Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!
We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.
Amen.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love
ELW 708 – 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.

God who is love and made all things in love, you came down to walk this earth among us and show us what it means to truly love one another. When the world tells us that it is walls and barriers that will bring us safety, remind us of the truth of your teachings; that it is in one another, in community, in reaching towards each other across the chasm, that we will find true peace, love, and justice for all of creation. In the name of our teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God. Everyone who loves God loves the One who has come from God. We can be sure that we love God's children when we love God and do what God has commanded.

The love of God consists of this: that we keep God's commandments. And these commandments are not burdensome. Everyone born of God conquers the world, and the power that has conquered the world is our faith.

Who then can overcome the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Only Begotten of God. Jesus came by water and blood – not by water alone, but with water and blood.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Reading – Loving Others: See No Stranger

Hymn Response

In Christ There Is No East or West
UMH 548 – verses 1-4

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Even if I can speak in all the tongues of earth – and those of angels too – but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, then hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, and it is not snobbish; it is never rude or self-seeking; it is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. Love doesn't rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease; tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect, and our prophecy is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known. There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Reading – Loving Opponents: Tend the Wound

Hymn Response

Healer of Our Every Ill
ELW 612 – verses 1-4

Gospel: John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

[Jesus continued],
As my Abba has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Live on in my love.
And you will live on in my love
if you keep my commandments.
I tell you all this that my joy may be yours,
and your joy may be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
There is no greater love
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
And you are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I no longer speak of you as subordinates,
because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business.
Instead, I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learned from Abba God.
It was not you who chose me;
it was I who chose you
to go forth and bear fruit.
Your fruit must endure,
so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name
God will give you.
This command I give you:
that you love one another.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reading – Loving Ourselves: Breathe and Push

Hymn Response

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
ELW 631 – verses 1, 2, 4

Reading – Conclusion & Prayer

Let us pray.

Triune God, your way of everlasting life is the way of revolutionary love – a radical kind of love that breaks every barrier, crosses every chasm, and won't rest until the labor of liberation has brought forth abundant new life for all of creation. Give us the strength and courage to follow you in this way, and to walk side by side and hand in hand with friends, neighbors, and strangers on this journey. May it be so among us, in this time and this place.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith: Ionian Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together:

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of male and female.
We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.
He descended into the earth
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.
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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. We pray especially for those enduring genocide in Palestine, and for all of the protestors and advocates for liberation whose relentless pursuit of freedom and justice is an embodiment of your message of love and life for all.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult.

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

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
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:

Touch That Soothes and Heals
ACS 939 – verses 1-4

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and 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-W 9-1, or by appointment
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Attributions

Call to Worship – Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2023.

Prayer of Confession – Posted on the Presbyterian Church (USA) website. <http://www.pcusa.org/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/09/prayer-of-confession-as-you-have-loved.html>.

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