

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



May 19th, 2024  
*Day of Pentecost*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Holy Spirit, Divine Breath, Wild Winds of Change  
**She comes to rattle all that cages,**  
to provoke with prophecies,  
**to disturb the quiet of evil's routines.**

In her presence, all the earth trembles with anticipation of freedom.  
**A weary world is roused with hope!**

She awakens the senses to the nearness of salvation.  
**She is the power of God poured out among us.**  
Come, Spirit, come!

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

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart  
*UMH 500 — verses 1, 4, 5*

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.

Send forth your Spirit, O God, and renew the face of the earth. Dwell among us, even though your presence will startle and unsettle us. Grant us your peace, we pray, as justice and love pour down upon the yearning earth. **Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of YHWH was upon me, and it carried me away by the Spirit of YHWH and set me down in a valley – a valley full of dry bones. God made me walk up and down among them. And I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying there in the valley, and they were very dry. God asked me, “Mere mortal, can these bones live?”

I answered, “Only you know that, Sovereign YHWH.”

And God said, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: ‘Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH! Sovereign YHWH says to these bones: I am going to breathe life into you. I will fasten sinews on you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin, and give you breath. And you will live, and you will know that I am Sovereign YHWH.’” So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and all the bones came together bone matching to bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh clothed them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, “Prophesy to the wind; prophesy, mere mortal, and say to it: ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: Approach from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”

I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them; they came alive, and stood up on their feet – a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, “Mere mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. The people keep saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is gone, and we are doomed.’ Prophesy, therefore, and say to them, “Thus says Sovereign YHWH: I am going to open your graves and raise you up from the dead, my people. I will return you to the land of Israel. When I open your graves and raise you up, you, my people, will know that I am YHWH. Then I will put my Spirit into you and you will return to life, and I will settle you back on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHWH, have spoken and made all this happen, says Sovereign YHWH.”

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native tongues being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears their words in our native tongue? We are Pathians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamis, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome – all Jews or converts to Judaism – Cretans and Arabs too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" But others said mockingly, "They've drunk too much new wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: "Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! These people are not drunk as you think – it's only nine o'clock in the morning! No, it's what Joel the prophet spoke of:

'In the days to come –  
it is our God who speaks –  
I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind.  
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,  
your young people will see visions,  
and your elders will dream dreams.  
Even on the most insignificant of my people,  
both women and men,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.  
And I will display wonders  
in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below:  
blood, fire, and billowing smoke.  
The sun will be turned into darkness  
and the moon will become blood  
before the coming of the great and sublime day of our God.  
And all who call upon the name of our God will be saved.'"

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 15:26-16:15

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th and 16th chapters.

[Jesus continued],  
“When the Paraclete comes –  
the Spirit of Truth who comes from Abba God,  
whom I myself will send from my Abba –  
she will bear witness on my behalf.  
You too must bear witness,  
for you’ve been with me since the beginning.  
I have told you all this  
to keep your faith from being shaken.  
They will expel you from synagogues –  
and indeed, the hour is coming when anyone  
who kills you will claim to be serving God.  
They will do these things because they know neither Abba God nor me.  
But I have told you these things  
so that when the time comes,  
you’ll remember that I told you ahead of time.  
I didn’t tell you this at first  
because I was with you.  
Now I am going to the One who sent me –  
yet not one of you has asked, ‘Where are you going?’  
You’re sad of heart  
because I tell you this.  
Still, I must tell you the truth:  
it is much better for you that I go.  
If I fail to go,  
then the Paraclete will never come to you,  
whereas if I go,  
I will send her to you.  
When she comes,  
she will prove the world wrong  
about sin, about justice,  
and about judgment.  
About sin –  
in that they refuse to believe in me;  
about justice –  
because I go to Abba God  
and you will see me no more;  
about judgment –  
for the ruler of this world has been condemned.

I have much more to tell you,  
but you can't bear to hear it now.  
When the Spirit of Truth comes,  
she will guide you into all truth.  
She won't speak of her own initiative;  
rather, she'll speak only what she hears,  
and she'll announce to you  
things that are yet to come.  
In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me,  
for she will take what is mine  
and reveal it to you.  
Everything that Abba God has  
belongs to me.  
This is why I said that  
the Spirit will take what is mine  
and reveal it to you."

Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes

Hymn Response

Loving Spirit  
*ELW 397 – verses 1-5*

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.*

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way.

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.**

We remember the faithful departed. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us in the faith. At the last day, breathe new life into our dry bones, that we might feast forever with all the saints in light.

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.**

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.  
In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers,  
anointing them to speak your Word.

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.  
At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him  
and declared him your beloved Son.  
With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.  
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.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,  
baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead  
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,  
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued  
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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 and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
showing forth the fruit of the Spirit 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 forever.

**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

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

Sending Song:

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind  
*ELW 400 – 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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[www.hoodriverchurch.org](http://www.hoodriverchurch.org)

**Church Office Hours**

**Closed on Fridays**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

M-W 9-1, or by appointment

[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)

**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**

Tuesday 10-1

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