

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



May 26th, 2024
The Holy Trinity Sunday

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Truly I tell you, no one can witness the kin-dom of God
unless they are born again.

We die to self-importance
that we might be born into interdependence.

We die to indifference
that we might be born into compassion.

We die to competition
that we might be born into community.

We die to accepting our neighbor's demise
that we might be born into solidarity.

Truly I tell you, no one can witness the kin-dom of God
unless they are born again.

Come! We worship the God of Life Abundant,
of the kin-dom here and now.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.
It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**
**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.
Where else can we turn?
**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**
Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
ELW 413 – 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, our loving God, you are the Surprise from whom all discoveries grow,
the Delight of whom each victory sings, the Joy to whom all lasting pleasures flow,
the Search out of whom all science springs, the Truth who surfaces when all seems
lost, the Love who will not count the cost.

Creating God, high beyond our understanding, we worship your mystery!

Redeeming God, deep beyond our deserving, we worship your mystery!

Inspiring God, near beyond our perceiving, we worship your mystery!

In the name of our Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we pray, **Amen.**

First Reading: Romans 8:12-27

Therefore, we are under an obligation, my sisters and brothers – but not to the flesh or to live according to the flesh. If you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if you live by the Spirit, you will put to death the evil deeds of the body and you will live.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. For the Spirit that God has given you does not enslave you and trap you in fear; instead, through the Spirit God has adopted you as children, and by that Spirit we cry out, “Abba!” God’s Spirit joins with our spirit to declare that we are God’s children. And if we are children, we are heirs as well, heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing in Christ’s suffering and sharing in Christ’s glory.

Indeed, I consider the sufferings of the present to be nothing compared with the glory that will be revealed in us. All creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God. Creation was subjected to transience and futility, not of its own accord, but because of the One who subjected it – in the hope that creation itself would be freed from its slavery to corruption and would come to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the firstfruits of the Spirit – we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

The Spirit, too, comes to help us in our weakness. For we don’t know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit expresses our plea with groanings too deep for words. And God, who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what the Spirit is saying, because her intercessions for God’s holy people are made according to the mind of God.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Give praise to the Beloved,
O heavenly hosts,
Sing of Love's glory and strength.
**Exalt the glory of Love's Name;
Adore the Beloved in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Beloved is upon the waters;
Love's voice echos over the oceans and seas.
**The voice of Love is powerful,
majestic is the heart of Love.**

The mercy of the Beloved breaks the bonds of oppression,
shatters the chains of injustice.
**Love invites all to the dance of freedom,
to sing the Beloved's song of truth.**

The voice of Love strikes with fire
upon hearts of stone.
**The voice of Love uproots the thorns of fear,
Love uproots fear in every open heart.**

The voice of Love is heard in every storm,
and strips the ego bare;
**And in the heart's chapel, all cry,
"Peace and Glory forever!"**

The Beloved lives in our hearts;
Love dwells with us forever.
**You who awaken to the Light
of universal Oneness
will know the blessed joy
of serving in the great Work of Love.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you're a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer:

"The truth of the matter is,
unless one is born from above,
one cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said, "How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again!"

Jesus replied,

"The truth of the matter is,
no one can enter God's kingdom
without being born of water and the Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh;
what is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

So don't be surprised when I tell you that
you must be born from above.

The wind blows where it will.

You hear the sound it makes,
but you don't know where it comes from
or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be possible?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, "You're a teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these matters?"

"The truth of the matter is.
we're talking about what we know;
we're testifying about what we've seen –
yet you don't accept our testimony.

If you don't believe
when I tell you about earthly things,
how will you believe
when I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has gone up to heaven
except the One who came down from heaven –
the Chosen One.

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so the Chosen One must be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One
might have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world
as to give the Only Begotten One,
that whoever believes may not die,
but have eternal life.
God sent the Only Begotten into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that through the Only Begotten
the world might be saved.

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn Response

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity
ELW 412 – verses 1-4

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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict.

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.

You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing

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

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.
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:

Gracious Creator of Sea and of Land
W&S 3161 – verses 1-3

Blessing

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice
be with us;

May the blessing of the Son
who weeps the tears of the world's suffering
be with us;

And may the blessing of the Spirit
who inspires us to reconciliation and hope
be with us ☩
from now into eternity.
Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Spirit of God is alive in you!
Thanks be to God!



1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031

541-386-3993

www.hoodriverchurch.org

Church Office Hours
Closed on Fridays
Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
M-W 9-1, or by appointment
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com
Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship – copyright enfleshed 2024.

Confession & Forgiveness - copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2024

Prayer of the Day - Written by Bruce Prewer, posted at
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BTRINITYSUNDAY.htm>.

Prayers of the People – copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2024

Prayer of Thanksgiving – written by Rev. Quentin Chin. Posted on the United Church of Christ website.
<http://uccfiles.com/pdf/FeedmySheepEaster3April14.pdf>, accessed via re:worship.blogspot.com

Benediction – Posted on the World Council of Churches website.
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/home.html>, accessed via re:worshipblogspot.com