

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



June 9th 2024  
*3rd Sunday after Pentecost*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Welcome to a time of wonder  
**and music that calls us home**

Welcome to hear God's words that inspire and challenge  
**and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality -**  
Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others  
**leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.**

Hymn of the Season

God, We Gather as Your People  
*ACS 1038*

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

When Peace Like a River  
*ELW 785 – verses 1, 3, 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 of New Life, we give you thanks for the life with which you have blessed the earth abundantly. Help us to be good stewards of this life, even when confronted with struggles and hardship, living in the confidence of your resurrection promises; that though this life you have given us may not always be easy, that you abide with us through it all and call us to live each day anew.  
**Amen.**

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

But as we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – “I believed and therefore I spoke” – we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the One who raised Jesus to life will in turn raise us with Jesus, and place you with us in God’s presence. You see, all of this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the glory of God.

That is why we don’t lose heart. And although this physical self of ours may be falling into decay, the inner self is renewed day by day. These light and momentary troubles train us to carry the weight of an eternal glory which will make these troubles insignificant by comparison. And we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; visible things last only for a time, but the invisible are eternal.

For we know that when our earthly tent is folded up, there is waiting for us a house built by God, an everlasting home in the heavens, not made by human hands.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to You!  
In your Mercy, hear my voice!  
**May you be attentive to the  
voice of my supplications!**

If you should number the times we stray from You,  
O Beloved, who could face You?  
**Yet You are ever-ready to forgive,  
that we might be healed.**

I wait for You, my soul waits,  
for in your Love I would live;  
**My soul awaits the Beloved  
as one awaits the birth of a child,  
or as one awaits the fulfillment of their destiny.**

O sons and daughters of the Light,  
welcome the Heart of your heart!  
**Then you will climb the Sacred Mountain of Truth:  
You will know mercy and love in abundance.**  
Then will your transgressions be forgiven;  
and you will know the Oneness of All.

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 3rd chapter.

[After appointing the disciples] Jesus went home, and again such a crowd gathered that he and the disciples were unable to even eat a meal. When Jesus' relatives heard of this, they went out to take charge of him, thinking that he had lost his mind.

The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He casts out demons through the ruler of demons." Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a realm is torn by civil strife, it cannot last. If a household is divided according to loyalties, it will not survive. Similarly, if Satan has suffered mutiny in the ranks and is torn by dissension, the Devil is finished and cannot endure. No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold.

"The truth is, every sin and all the blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus spoke all this because they said, "He is possessed by an unclean spirit."

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "You mother and brothers are outside looking for you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who is my family?" And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said, "This is my family! Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my mother."

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn of the Day

In Unity We Lift Our Song

*TFWS 221 – 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

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

*A brief silence.*

You reawaken our hearts to your mercy. We give you thanks for renewers of the church in every age. Enliven the creativity and persistence of all seeking to transform the church into a closer vision of your beloved community.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

Your presence is revealed in the shade of trees, the growth of seeds into flowers, and in the blessing of plants granting food in their right season. Heal lands scarred by deforestation, pollution, or infestation. Teach us to cultivate the earth with respect and reverence.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

Our nations and communities are divided, O God. Teach us again to listen with curiosity and mercy, even in disagreement. Grant us the humility to acknowledge our hardness of heart and make us bold in modeling cooperation for the sake of the common good.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you from the depths of fear, despair, or hopelessness. With haste, rescue victims of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, and bless organizations and individuals who work on their behalf.

*We pray especially for those enduring genocide in Palestine, for all of the protestors and advocates for liberation, and especially for all of the aid and relief workers who have put themselves in harms way to tend to the wellbeing of victims of violence.*

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:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing  
*ELW 543 – verses 1-3*

Blessing

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**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**

M-W 9-1, or by appointment

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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**

Tuesday 10-1



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Prayer of the Day -

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