

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



October 27th, 2024
Reformation Sunday

Prelude

Spirit of Grace Bell Choir

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Blessed be the One who weaves our lives together

In God's wisdom, all things were created to move in perfect harmony

Every creature, great and small, a sacred part of the whole

Each bearing unique gifts, endowed by our Creator

For the sake of collective life, the Spirit of God draws us towards one another

Hymn of the Season

A Place at the Table
W&S 3149 – verses 1, 2, 5

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.
The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.
In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Beloved Siblings in Christ,
God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

Centering Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
ELW 504 – 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.
Ever-present, ever-lasting, ever-loving God – you sent us Jesus Christ to be your embodied, Living Word among us, to show us what it means to be in right relationship with all of creation. Fill us with the courage of our ancestors in faith, that we might be always growing, always changing, always reforming our ways to more closely resemble your ways, on earth as it is in Heaven. In the name of Christ, who taught us in this way, we pray.
Amen.

First Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that what the Law says is said to those under the Law. Therefore, let every mouth be silenced, and let all of humankind be open to God's judgment. This is because we are not justified in the sight of God by keeping the Law: law only makes us aware of sin.

But now, the justice of God has been manifested apart from the Law, even though both Law and prophets bear witness to it; the justice of God works through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. There are no exceptions: everyone has sinned; everyone falls short of the glory of God. Yet everyone has also been undeservedly justified by the gift of God, through the redemption wrought in Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a propitiatory sacrifice, for the atonement of all who have faith in Christ's blood. And God did so to manifest divine justice – because God showed forbearance by remitting sins committed in the past, in order to demonstrate divine justice in the present – so that the Most High might be both a just judge and the One who justifies those who believe in Jesus.

What room is there then for boasting? It is ruled out. In what law do we boast – the law of works? No: only the law of faith. We maintain that one is justified by faith – apart from keeping the Law.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength,
who from of old has helped us in our distress.

**Therefore we fear nothing –
even if the earth should open up in front of us
and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea,
even if the earth's waters rage and foam
and the mountains tumble with its heaving.**

**There's a river whose streams
gladden the city of God,
the holy dwelling of the Most High.**

God is in its midst, it will never fall –
God will help it at daybreak.

**Though nations are in turmoil and empires crumble,
God's voice resounds, and it melts the earth.**

YHWH Sabaoth is with us –
our stronghold is the God of Jacob!

**Come, see what YHWH has done –
God makes the earth bounteous!**

God has put an end to war,
from one end of the earth to the other,
breaking bows, splintering spears,
and setting chariots on fire.

**“Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted upon the earth.”**

YHWH Sabaoth is with us –
our stronghold is the God of Jacob!

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

Jesus said to those who believed in him,

“If you live according to my teaching,
you really are my disciples;
then you’ll know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”

“We’re descendants of Sarah and Abraham,” they replied. “Never have we been the slaves of anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You’ll be free’?”

Jesus answered them,

“The truth of the matter is,
everyone who lives in sin
is the slave of sin.

Now a slave doesn’t always remain part of the household;
an heir, however, is a member of that house forever.
So if the heir – the Only Begotten – makes you free,
you will be free indeed.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn of the Day

We All Are One in Mission
ELW 576 – verses 1-3

Affirmation of Faith

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

Holding all of the hopes, joys, prayers, and concerns of our community in our hearts, let us pray together by the power of the Holy Spirit for the church, God's creation, and all who are in need this day.

A brief silence.

God of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together.

We pray especially for all victims of war and violence, especially for those enduring the acts of genocide in Palestine and surrounding areas. Protect those who care for the victims of violence, and send your Spirit of comfort to rest on those consumed by hopelessness and despair. Let the ways of war and conflict cease so that the wisdom of peace and understanding may be heard.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Into your hands, O Gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

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

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Disciples' Prayer

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:

Listen, God is Calling
ELW 513 – verses 1-3

Blessing

The blessing of God,
The Creator who made us for one another,
The Christ who taught us to love one another,
and the Spirit who draws us back to one another,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
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

M-W 9-1, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship — Liturgy that Matters, enfolded 2018. Used with permission.

Confession & Forgiveness, Prayers of the People, Offering Prayer – Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress.
Used with permission.

Affirmation of Faith – A New Creed - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada