

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



January 12th, 2025
Baptism of Christ

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather this day:
a community of faith in God's subversive world.
We gather to celebrate
that no darkness can extinguish light.
We gather to remember
that love will always be more powerful than death.
We gather to trust
that peace will always be stronger than violence.

We gather,
people of faith in the light of God's world.
Welcome to worship.

Hymn of the Season

When a Star is Shining
ACS 915 – verses 1-3

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Centering Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
TFWS 2051 – verses 1-7

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.

Eternal Creator, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

“But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
hear the word of YHWH —
the One who created you,
the One who fashioned you, Israel:
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the seas, I will be with you;
when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown.
Walk through fire, and you will not be singed;
walk through flames and you will not be burned.
I am YHWH, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer.
I give Egypt as ransom for you,
Nubia and Seba in exchange for you.
You are more precious to me than Assyria;
you are honored, and I love you.
I will give people in exchange for you,
whole nations in exchange for your life.
Have no fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your descendants from the east
and gather them from the west.
To the north I will say, ‘Give them up!’
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!
Bring my daughters and sons from afar,
return them from the ends of the earth —
everyone who is called by my Name,
whom I created for my glory,
who I formed and made!”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Give glory to YHWH, you heavenly court,
give YHWH glory and strength!
**Give forth the glory that God's Name deserves,
and worship YHWH in the splendor of holiness!**
The voice of YHWH resounds over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the raging seas.
**God's voice is powerful,
God's voice is full of majesty.**
The voice of YHWH snaps the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
**It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
The voice of YHWH strikes with bolts of lightning;
**the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,
the wilderness of Kadesh.**
The voice of God twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare;
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"
**YHWH sits in judgement over the flood;
YHWH is its Ruler forever.**
Give strength to your people, YHWH!
Bless your people with peace!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire."

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests."

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn of the Day

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized
ELW 304 – verses 1-4

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

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:

**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.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, in every time and place.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. We pray especially this day for the people of Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and so many other places impacted by acts of war and violence. Empower all people and nations to pursue your pathways of peace.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Holy God, in you alone we find safety and shelter. Be a sure refuge to all suffering from wildfires. Grant courage, protection, and favorable weather to firefighters and emergency responders; embrace with supportive communities all who are newly displaced or homeless; comfort those grieving all that has been destroyed and give patience to those who are anxious, not knowing when relief will come. Heal your whole creation, that out of flame and ashes, new growth will spring forth.

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 & Disciples' Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.
Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray, **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 Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
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-Th 9-1, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship: written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>, accessed via re-worship.blogspot.com

Prayer of the Day: Posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/collect-baptism-of-our-lord.html>.

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