

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



February 16th, 2025
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Here in this place, there are no outsiders or foreigners,
for all are welcome to be at home in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is abounding acceptance,
for love is the language of our faith.

Here in our lives, there are differences, but no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

Hymn of the Season

Come! Come! Everybody Worship!
TFWS 2271, 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

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.
Compassionate God, we recognize that our world is a broken place, hurt by poverty, famine, and disease. We admit that sometimes we make the world a broken place, tolerating prejudice, conflict, and self-interest. We confess that our hearts also suffer with anger, resentment, and jealousy. Renew us in Your love, O God, and heal us with the comfort of Your abundant love. Awaken us to the role we can play in healing Your creation. Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit to hear Your word and move forward in faith. In the name of Christ, we pray.
Amen.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tell me, if we proclaim that Christ was raised from the dead, how is it that some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching has been meaningless — and everything you've believed has been just as meaningless. Indeed, we are shown to be false witnesses of God, for we solemnly swore that God raised Christ from the dead — which did not happen if in fact the dead are not raised. Because if the dead are not raised, then Christ is not raised, and if Christ is not raised, your faith is worthless. You are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ are the deadest of the dead. If our hopes in Christ are limited to this life only, we are the most pitiable of the human race.

But as it is, Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Happiness comes to those
who reject the path of violence,
who refuse to associate with criminals
or even to sit with people who belittle others.
**Happiness comes to those
who delight in the Law of YHWH
and meditate on it day and night.**
They're like trees planted by flowing water —
they bear fruit in every season,
and their leaves never wither:
everything they do will prosper.

But not wrongdoers!
They're like chaff that a wind blows away.
They won't have a taproot to anchor them
when judgement comes,
nor will corrupt individuals be given a place
at the Gathering of the Just.

**YHWH watches over the steps
of those who do justice;
but those on a path of violence and injustice
will find themselves irretrievably lost.**

Invite the congregation to stand as they are able for the reading of the gospel

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

Coming down the mountain with [the Twelve], Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon — people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed,
for the reign of God is yours.
You who hunger now are blessed,
for you’ll be filled.
You who weep now are blessed,
for you’ll laugh.
You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you
and spurn your name as evil
because of the Chosen One.
On the day they do so,
rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.
But woe to you rich,
for you are now receiving your comfort in full.
Woe to you who are full,
for you’ll go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you’ll weep in your grief.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Jack Larwa

Hymn of the Day

A Charge To Keep I Have
UMH 413 – 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.**

The congregation may be seated.

Joys & Concerns

If you have any joys, concerns, or prayer requests to share, please type them into the comment section of our worship video 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.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for leaders at every level of government, that they work for the justice and equity of all people. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will be strengthened in the fountain of your righteousness.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways.

Merciful God,

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](#)

Offering 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.
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.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
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.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

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,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.
In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners.
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.
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.

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."

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.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
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.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation 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

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
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.

Sending Song:

To Be Your Presence
ELW 546 – verses 1-4

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 Thursdays & Fridays

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

M-W 9-12, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship: written by Erik Alsgaard, and posted on the Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> – adapted by Rev. Bermes for this service

Prayer of the Day: Written by Gill Le Fevre. Posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2019/02/opening-prayer-luke-6-17-26.html>.

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