



January 24, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

“... I think every day God sends us an invitation to live and sometimes we forget to show up or get head-faked into thinking we haven’t really been invited. But you see, we have been invited ~ every day, all over again.”

~ **Bob Goff**

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

We gather to respond to the call of God's love

**Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news
with us.**

May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence
with others.

Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.

Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

**May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far
to know the love of this divine presence.**

* *Opening Hymn* *“Lead On, O King Eternal”*

Mt Hope VH #394

Greenfield CH #724

Grace VH #394

Gathering Prayer

From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light. We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, “God!”. In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense. May we, gathered in this place, learn to pay more attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places.

**God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer be more and
more in us that we might live more and more in you. Amen.**

Psalm Reading

62:5-12 NIV

- ⁵ Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
- ⁶ Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
- ⁷ My salvation and my honor depend on God^[a];
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.
- ⁹ Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
the highborn are but a lie.
If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
together they are only a breath.
- ¹⁰ Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;
though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.
- ¹¹ One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:
“Power belongs to you, God,
¹² and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”;
and, “You reward everyone
according to what they have done.”

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.

Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance

The one who calls us to this place
calls us to reconciliation through grace.
God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.
Know that you are forgiven
and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love.
Amen

Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 NIV

²⁹ What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; ³⁰ those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; ³¹ those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 1:14-20 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #422

"Just as I Am"

Greenfield CH #488

Grace VH #422

Today's Message

* *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* *Sung Response*

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

TH # 501

* *Closing Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #77

"Amazing Grace"

Greenfield CH #343

Grace VH #77

* *Benediction*

Now may the One who is faithful to all
be with us all as we depart this blessed place.
May we be a blessing to every place we go,
until we gather again.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

* *Three-Fold Amen*

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

TH # 558

* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*