



*January 12, 2025*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

[www.greenfieldcharge.org](http://www.greenfieldcharge.org)  
[greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com](mailto:greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com)

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor  
Mrs. Wendy Farber

[farberhome@atlanticbb.net](mailto:farberhome@atlanticbb.net)

Pianist  
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech  
Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist  
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

*Sunday Meditation*

Baptism is an adoption. By nature we are creatures of God. Jesus taught that we need to be born spiritually as children of God. If God is our Father, we are his children. But we are his children, not by physical birth, but my spiritual birth. By his grace, we are adopted as his children.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
Baptism of Christ / *Heaven Opened*

January 12, 2025  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

**God in Christ, has named us all “Beloved.”**

Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew.

**May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.**

May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

**And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!**

\* *Invocation*

**Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You. Amen.**

\* *Opening Hymn*

**“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

*Mt Hope PH #111*

*Greenfield CH #240*

*Grace TH #13*

## *Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

Loving God, let me enter again Your baptismal river of grace. Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of my life and longings. Yes, Holy One, submerge me in You again and again and again. Cleanse every distracting impulse luring me away from You who are my heart's deepest desire. Let no urgency be more important than Your forgiving love, always transforming. Today, help me choose you above every temptation that lures me to worship lesser things. By this of You, forgive me, renew me, and grant me the grace promised by You in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## *Words of Grace*

Before we thought to turn to God, God already turned toward us in love. The saturating grace of God is trustworthy and true. Our prayers of transformation have been met with God's outpouring of forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

## *Old Testament Reading*

Isaiah 43:1-7 NRSV

### *Restoration and Protection Promised*

- 43 But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.  
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
3 For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.  
4 Because you are precious in my sight  
and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*                      **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 NRSV**  
*Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)*                      **TH #497**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

***The Baptism of Jesus***

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

***Children's Message / Congregation Conversation***

\* *Meditation Hymn*                      **“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**  
*Mt Hope VH #155                      Greenfield CH #393                      Grace VH #155*

## *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

### *The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

\* Doxology

TH # 551

\* Offertory Prayer

**O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*    “*We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer*”

*Mt Hope PH #22*

*Greenfield CH #68*

*Grace TH #19*

\* *Benediction*

Remember that your first name is Beloved, given to you by God before any other name. Remember also it is the name given to every human being. May this blessed gift and claim of God grow in your heart and mind. And may it flow through you as a blessing into the life of the world. Blessings on you, Beloved! Amen and Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

---

*Heaven Opened: Service Prayers for the Baptism of Christ was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.*