



January 15, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

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Sunday Morning Meditation

“Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week.”

– Joseph Addison

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
2nd Sunday after Epiphany / “Be Called”

January 15, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

There are no words for what this testimony means
only the wonder at how it feels like grace.

We celebrate the prophets and visionaries;

in story and song, we awaken to the sound of one voice.

There is no way to know what this following will take
only the hope that it is leading us deeper into the heart of love.

We cherish the risk-takers and the tide-turners:

in prayer and praise, we witness to the sound of voices **two.**

There is no telling when the struggle will end,
only the faith in a future we cannot yet behold.

We become the movement and the liberation:

in worship and wrestling, we create the sound of all of us.

* *Invocation*

To the revelation and the wonder, open us.

With the vision and the possibility, convict us.

For the recognizing and the following, equip us.

In the struggle and the seeking, be with us.

Holy One, manifest your love, make your justice known
in and among us. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Look to the Lamb of God”

Mt Hope VH #430

Greenfield FHP #53

Grace VH #430

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

In this moment of stillness,
feel for the rhythm of your own pulse
listen to the cadence of your own breath.

**When we lose touch with our own flourishing,
Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

In this moment of stillness,
feel for the rhythm of another one's pulse
listen to the cadence of another one's breath

**When we lose touch with the celebrations and struggles of our
neighbors,
Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

In this moment of stillness,
feel for the rhythm of the pulse of justice for all
listen to the cadence of the breath of love

**When we lose touch with our collective liberation,
Holy One, forgive us, reconnect us.**

Words of Grace

Thrill and rejoice, people of God:
God's grace and love meet us at every turn,
no matter where our journeys lead.

**Praise God who gives us each the chance
to be epiphanies of redeeming love and liberating justice.**

Psalm Reading

Psalm 40:1-11 NIV

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.

² He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the LORD
and put their trust in him.

⁴ Blessed is the one
who trusts in the LORD,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.

⁵ Many, LORD my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.

None can compare with you;

were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.

⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened—
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

⁷ Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll.

⁸ I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart.”

⁹ I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
I do not seal my lips, LORD,
as you know.

¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
from the great assembly.

¹¹ Do not withhold your mercy from me, LORD;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 1:29-42 NIV

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

TH #497

John Testifies About Jesus

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

John’s Disciples Follow Jesus

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”
39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Just As I Am”

Mt Hope VH #422

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

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

Giver of Gifts, use our gifts to empower us to lean into this reality and this calling, more and more fully, until we become the salvation we are dreaming of. May it be so. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “Love Lifted Me”
Mt Hope VH #177 *Greenfield* CH #508 *Grace* VH #177

* *Benediction*

What are you seeking?
What are you looking for?
Deep down, what do you need?
Deep down, what do *we* need?

This seeking is the blessing.
This looking is the calling.
This needing is the epiphany.

So let us go forth to continue to discover how we become liberation together. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Be Called: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany were written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, Join the Movement Curator, United Church of Christ.