



January 2, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber
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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist
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Epiphany Thought

"It is easy to gush over the baby Jesus; what a sweet picture the stable scene makes on a Christmas card with cute angels flying overhead. We must not forget that the baby whom everyone helps to adore, will grow up to be the man everyone helps to crucify."

Robert McAfee Brown

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
2nd Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany Observed

January 2, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

based on Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**We have seen the star in the sky
and have come to worship the Christ Child.**

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**The star is resting over Bethlehem,
and we come rejoicing, overwhelmed with joy.**

**All: Let us bring the gift of our hearts and the gift of our lives
to worship our God of light and everlasting love.**

* *Opening Hymn*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Mt Hope PH #348

Greenfield CH #539

Grace VH #248

Invocation

O God of Light and Love,
who shines in our hearts as brightly as the Bethlehem star,
we come together to give you praise.

You have come to us in the form of a newborn babe,
and our hearts are filled with awe and with joy.

We rejoice in your love for us, and we are grateful.

Prayer of Confession

Yet there are times when we are drawn away from your light.
We may feel inadequate, unworthy, or less than perfect.
We forget that we are your children, your beloved creations,
and that you reach out for us even when we turn away from you.
Forgive us, O God.

Words of Pardon

The night is gone and the day has come.

Christ, the Light of the World, born in the person of Jesus, reminds us that God's light and love are for all of us —

no matter who we are and no matter what we have done.

We are loved and forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

First Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12 NIV

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 2:1-12 NIV

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

TH #497

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “As With Gladness Men of Old”

Mt Hope VH #91

Greenfield CH #290

Grace VH #91

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 God, we come to you seeking to be as wise as the Magi, who gave of their most precious treasures — symbols of the giving of themselves to the Christ Child. May these gifts be a source of light in places where your light and love are needed most. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “*We Three Kings*”
 Mt Hope PH #143 *Greenfield CH #288* *Grace Insert*

* *Benediction*

The night has gone and the Light has come!
May the light of the Bethlehem star,
the wisdom of the Magi,
and the hope that the Christ Child brings be with you always.

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*