

“FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE  
YOU FISHERS OF MEN”



*January 22, 2023*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

“Quiet the mind, and the soul will speak.”

– Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany / “*Recognize Greatness*”

January 22, 2023  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Our ever-present God dwells in the sanctuary and in homes, in public spaces and in our interior lives.

**Behold the greatness of the Holy One in the expansiveness of these sacred spaces.**

We seek God’s face on Sunday mornings and evenings...and throughout the week.

**Live in the presence of the Holy One all the days of our lives.**

We call out for God’s grace, strength, and guidance.

**Seek the face of the Holy One. Recognize God’s greatness.**

\* *Invocation*

Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us and the ways you connect us as a community. Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world. Thrill us with your majesty and inspire us with your humility. We rejoice in this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly, gathered across time and space as your people. We seek you. We’re grateful to find you. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*                      “*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*”

*Mt Hope* VH #335

*Greenfield* FHP #54

*Grace* VH #335

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

**Sovereign God, how often do we turn toward ourselves or others for validation, salvation, and deliverance rather than seek your wisdom, will, and way? How often have we sought our own measure of greatness apart from the realm of your kingdom? How long have you waited for us to seek**

**you? Forgive us, O God, and call us back to your presence,  
plan, and purpose...**

### *Words of Grace*

The One who creates us in the divine image knows how tempted we may be to consider ourselves more highly than we ought or more lowly than we should. The One who knows us continually reaches toward us with the promise of grace and the hope of mercy, faithfulness, and love. Receive God's forgiveness and restorative embrace.

### *Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 27:1, 4-9 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice when I call, LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,  
God my Savior.

*A Church Divided Over Leaders*

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. <sup>11</sup> My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 4:12-23 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

*Jesus Begins to Preach*

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

*Jesus Calls His First Disciples*

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*     “*The Church's One Foundation*”

*Mt Hope* VH #161

*Greenfield* CH #401

*Grace* VH #161

*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.**

