



January 26, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

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Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Meditation

Christianity is not a do-it-yourself religion. Our faith may begin as a personal relationship with God, but it is supported, strengthened, and increased by our relationship with a Christian community. God gave us the church as a gift to enable us to grow spiritually.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
3rd Sunday after Epiphany / *Proclaim*

January 26, 2025
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

We gather to hear God’s liberating word of love.

Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.

May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

And may it be enacted in our lives!

* *Invocation*

Gracious God, anoint us anew with your Holy Spirit of Love. By it, form our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of your good news. Grant us a renewed passion for your vision of a world where none are poor and where every weight is lifted. Cultivate your courageous compassion in us to move toward any who have been marginalized or run over by the world. Yes, bless and strengthen us to bless and strengthen others. We pray this in the name of the one whose life fulfilled Your Holy vision, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Mt Hope VH #23

Greenfield CH #21

Grace VH #23

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

O Love that will not let us go, interrupt our familiar inertias leading down paths of distraction and discouragement. Let today's Sabbath pause gift a freeing grace impossible to imagine on our own. By Your abundant outpouring of Spirit lighten every burden carried from yesterday's past. Cleanse the lens of our hearts, that we may see more clearly your vision of a world made new. Yes, forgive us and free us for this delight you yearn to offer, in and through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved of God, hear the good news: In Christ, God has declared that you are no longer captives to the past. All that you have carried, the Holy One has lifted. The eternal love of God, made known in Jesus Christ, has anointed you anew. You are forgiven and invited to join in the joy of God's great vision for your life. Thanks be to God who has fulfilled this in your hearing. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 NRSV

8 ¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 4:14-21 NRSV

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

TH #497

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Mt Hope VH #46

Greenfield CH #375

Grace VH #46

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

We thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us with the gift of life.

Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing Your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

Mt Hope PH #29

Greenfield CH #788

Grace TH #72

* *Benediction*

May the same Spirit that anointed Jesus, anoint you anew.

May the same grace at work in Jesus, be active in you.

May the good news declared by Jesus, be proclaimed by you in word and deed.

And may the world know that the year of God’s favor is at hand.

Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen!

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Proclaim: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany Year C was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.