



*January 28, 2024*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Sunday Morning Meditation*

Only he who believes is obedient. Only he who is obedient believes.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**  
***The Cost of Discipleship (1937)***

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany / 'The Works'

January 28, 2024  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

We come to worship...

**Giving thanks with whole hearts...**

**In the company of this congregation.**

We worship the One who is gracious and merciful...

**Holy and awesome is God's name!**

**All: Let us worship God together!**

\* *Invocation*

Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

**"I Would Be True"**

*Mt Hope* VH #366

*Greenfield* FHP #260

*Grace* VH #366

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

God invites us to come to worship with our whole hearts, to inventory our deeds and our works, mindful of our covenant with God. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

**Gracious and Merciful God, maker of covenant, faithful and just, we examine our lives in light of your righteousness which endures forever. You give us commandments, raise up prophets among us from among our own people. You speak to us, and ask us to become accountable. Yet often we**

**ignore your ways and disdain your works. We close ourselves to your prophets and to the suffering in our world. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in faithfulness to you today, tomorrow, and all days. Amen.**

### *Words of Grace*

God's righteousness endures forever, and God is mindful of God's covenant with us. The promises of God's covenant of grace assure us that this day and all days we can walk in renewed faithfulness, as we witness good works, and follow God's call.

**Thanks be to God, whose righteousness endures forever!**

### *Epistle Reading*

#### **1 Corinthians 8:1-13 NRSV**

##### *Food Offered to Idols*

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, <sup>3</sup> but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup> Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists" and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup> Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup> It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 1:21-28 NRSV

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

TH #497

*The Man with an Unclean Spirit*

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn* “*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*”

*Mt Hope PH #12*

*Greenfield NCH #27*

*Grace TH #386*

*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 worship with our whole hearts, and give with our whole  
hearts, remembering your covenant with us, O God. As we  
share these gifts, may they be for the work of faithful  
justice and gracious mercy through your church and in  
your world. Amen.**

## \* *Closing Hymn*

**“He Leadeth Me”**

*Mt Hope* VH #276

*Greenfield* CH #690

*Grace* VH #276

## \* *Benediction*

May the One whose righteousness endures forever,  
Keep you in holy covenant with all creation,  
And may you know God’s grace and mercy,  
Forever and ever. Amen!

## \* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

## \* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*



## Help Tackle Childhood Hunger

**The Bulldog Backpack Program**, which provides weekend meals to elementary children in need, is calling on local businesses and churches to participate in our **1st Annual Soup-er Bowl!**

The Bulldog Backpack Program helps over 120 students in the Claysburg-Kimmel schools by providing non-perishable food for them to take home on weekends.

**We are hoping to collect at least 500 cans of kid-friendly, non-perishable, in-date soup, which will help feed kids in the district for 4 weekends.**

**Collect cans now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024.**

Donations may be dropped off at these locations:

**Dollar General** - 12792 Dunnings Highway

**Former Cat's Meow** - 595 Bedford Street (leave on porch)

**Claysburg Area Public Library** - 957 Bedford Street

**Dollar General** - 138 Polecat Hollow Road

Any other participating retailer, business, or church

**OR** You may **email Terri Lingenfelter at [ckbackpack@gmail.com](mailto:ckbackpack@gmail.com)** to arrange a pick up of larger collections through February 18, 2024.

Please help us tackle childhood hunger this winter!