



JESUS TEACHING ON THE MOUNT.

January 29, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

To be “blessed” is to be full of joy and hope in relationship with God. Blessed are those who have directed their attention from earthly rewards, who have gone deeper than superficial thinking.

– Susan McCarthy Peabody
Alphabet Soup for Christian Living (2007)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
4th Sunday after Epiphany
“Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly.”

January 29, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

Those who do justice. Those who confront inequities and uplift the oppressed.

Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

Those who love kindness. Those who love neighbor, friend and foe.

Holy One, who may abide in your sanctuary? Who may dwell in your sacred creation?

Those who walk humbly with you. Those who follow your lead and answer your call.

* *Invocation*

Just and Loving God, we enter into your sacred spaces, in sanctuaries and in homes, in public gatherings and private places. You bridge time and space to forge us as a beloved community. You, O Sovereign, make plain the way of life for us. Encourage us to join your journey, to love your children and creation, and to contribute to your kingdom on earth. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Blessed Be the Name”

Mt Hope VH #80

Greenfield FHP #16

Grace VH #80

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy Wisdom, you have expressed your hope for us and vision for life abundantly. Many times we settle for a temporary truce over real peace. We avoid confrontation and accountability that builds up and creates a more just world. We refuse to relentlessly pursue your will when discomforted by the cost of discipleship. Forgive us, O God, we pray.

Words of Grace

Receive the good news that each day presents a new opportunity to follow the way of Jesus—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The grace of the Holy One meets us. God embraces and supports us in the turning and will be faithful to strengthen us on the path of righteousness. Amen.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 15 MSG

GOD, who gets invite to dinner at your place?

How do we get on your guest list?

² “Walk straight, act right, tell the truth.

³⁻⁴ “Don’t hurt your friend, don’t blame your neighbor; despise the despicable.

⁵ “Keep your word even when it costs you, make an honest living, never take a bribe.

“You’ll never get blacklisted if you live like this.”

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 NIV

Christ Crucified Is God’s Power and Wisdom

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God

the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 0

5:1-12 NIV

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

TH #497

The Beatitudes

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*”

Mt Hope VH #155

Greenfield CH #393

Grace VH #155

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

**Just God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust
that, through these gifts, your kingdom comes and your will
is done. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn* “**Praise Him! Praise Him!**”
Mt Hope VH #31 *Greenfield* CH #12 *Grace* VH #31

* *Benediction*

As you go in the world, hold the blessings of peace. Be the good news to a world shrouded in brokenness, pain, and despair. Show the world the kingdom that lives in you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly.: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.