



January 30, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor

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Pianist

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Epiphany Thought

Love is greater than faith, because the end is greater than the means. What is the use of having faith? It is to connect the soul with God. And what is the object of connecting man with God? That he may become like God. But God is Love. Hence Faith, the means, is in order to Love, the end.

Henry Drummond
The Greatest Thing in the World (1891)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
4th Sunday after the Epiphany

January 30, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Offer God your worship and your praise

**Before God formed us in our mothers' wombs,
God knew and loved us.**

Offer Christ your love and your devotion.

**Before we drew our first breath,
Christ consecrated us as his own,**

Offer the Spirit your gratitude and your thanksgiving.

**Before we heard the call to heal the world,
the Spirit sustained our every heartbeat.**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We will offer God our worship and our praise.

Invocation

Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch us with kindness, Open our eyes, that we may see ourselves as you see us. Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness, that our words may be true and our love may be pure. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hopes all things in your love, which never ends. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* **"Take My Life, and Let It Be"**

Mt Hope VH #314

Greenfield CH #597

Grace VH #314

Prayer of Yearning

Source of truth and love, we yearn for certainty in an uncertain world. Grant us the courage to proclaim the words you place in our mouths. Remind us that your love alone softens the heart and mind, allowing us to receive your mysterious ways. When we fear that others will not see things our way, remind us that we all see in a mirror dimly. Silence the clanging cymbals that distract us, and harken us to your voice once more, that we may abide in your love, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The one who formed us in our mothers' wombs continues to shape our lives today. Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God's love heals our wounds, and gives us hope for the time before us.

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10 NIV

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 NIV

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 4:21-30 NIV

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

TH #497

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"

24 “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy^[a] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Face to Face”

Mt Hope VH #447

Greenfield CH #781

Grace VH #447

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 of resurrection, who makes all things new, accept our
offering to both give and receive, trusting that there is
abundance in togetherness, and generosity in you. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn*

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Mt Hope PH #366

Greenfield CH #435

Grace TH #287

* *Benediction*

Beloveds, we have claimed our place in the ecosystem of the Spirit
- alive, connected, and emergent with grace. Let us go forth from
this fertile ground, ripening the wisdom we have found through
justice, care, and compassion. And so, may the blessing of our
Communal Creator replenish you today and 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*