



January 8, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

Baptism is the time when God's love and forgiveness are experienced. But, it is only a beginning. While it is true that in the waters of baptism, God laid claim on our lives, it is also true that we spend the rest of our lives trying to figure out what that means.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

inspired by Psalm 29

Give glory to the Creator and bow in holy splendor!

The voice of the Creator renews and rebirths.

Give glory to the Holy One and bow in holy splendor!

The voice of the Holy One redeems and restores.

Give glory to the Living Water and bow in holy splendor!

The voice of the Living Water refreshes and revives. Glory to God!

* *Invocation*

Voice, Body, and Spirit, You make your presence among us. We receive your love and affirmation. We cherish your guidance and direction. We follow your path and example. Remind us of our connection to you and your covenantal relationship with us. Wash us in the baptized life for renewal and revitalization. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine”

Mt Hope Insert

Greenfield CH #467

Grace Insert

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One, we confess our need for grace and mercy. We seek forgiveness for the ways in which we have drawn away from you and our neighbors. We express remorse for our participation in the systems of the world that are actively opposed to your kingdom. Transform us to be carriers and promoters of your good news of new life, liberation, and hope in the world. Amen.

Words of Grace

The God of peace is faithful to offer forgiveness and new life in Christ. Receive the good news of new mercies with each new day and a future with hope.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 3:13-17 NIV

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

TH #497

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*”

Mt Hope VH #150

Greenfield CH #390

Grace VH #150

Today's Message

Baptism Renewal

Invitation

The Body of Christ continues to be renewed and refreshed. As members, we belong to the baptized and covenantal life in Christ. We gather today to affirm our faith and renew our commitments as followers of Jesus.

Affirmation of Faith

(Adapted from a Reading from the 2nd National Meeting of UCC Women)

O God, because you are the source of all life
And love and being,
We call you Creator.

Because we know the history of your presence
Among your covenanted people and honor their tradition,
We call you Lord.

Because our Savior, Jesus Christ, your obedient child,
Knew you intimately and spoke of you so,
We call you Father.

Because you are present in each act of birth;
And because you shelter, nurture and care for us,
We call you Mother.

Because you hold us up
And give us strength and courage
When we are weak and in need,
We call you Sustainer.

Because we have known you in our pain and suffering,
We call you Comforter.

Because beyond pain lies your promise
Of all things made new,
We call you Hope.

Because you are the means of liberation
And the way to freedom,
We call you Deliverer.

Because you have chosen to come among us
And share our common lot,
Making the hard choices, suffering and dying;
Because you rose victorious, bringing new life,
We call you Redeemer.

Confident that you will hear,
We call upon you with all the names
That make you real to us,
The names which create an image in our minds and hearts,
An image which our souls can understand and touch.
And yet we know that you are more than all of these.
Blessing and power, glory and honor be unto you, our God, Amen.

Do you believe in the One of Many Names, God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit?

We believe in the God of Many Names.

Do you reject the powers of oppression in this world, the systems that marginalize and degrade human beings and communities created by God, and the norms of the world at odds with the way of the kingdom?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you embrace grace as God's gift, to be freely given and freely received?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you recommit to the covenantal and baptized life, the cost and joy of discipleship, and the community of belonging as a member of the Body of Christ?

We do, with the help of God.

Renewal "I am God's Beloved. I am Baptized."

John the Baptist told his disciples that he baptized them with water but the one to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit. As we receive the mark of our renewed baptismal vows, we recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit within us and among.

{ Come, All Welcome to the Baptism Font }

You are God's beloved. You are baptized.

Prayer for the Baptized

Voice, Body, Spirit, we give thanks for the gathering of your people into a beloved community of belonging. By our baptism, we accept the invitation to public and faithful witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world and to be instruments to that work. May we live the baptized life in the Spirit as caring companions of one another, with accountability, support, and grace. Shelter us in your love, nourish us in your truth, and uphold us in your word. May it be so. 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

**Giver of Gifts, we thank you for providing in abundance and
allowing us to participate as co-givers with you. We
dedicate our offerings in your many names. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn* “Blessed Quietness”
Mt Hope VH #152 *Greenfield* FHP #108 *Grace* VH #152

* *Benediction*

Go in hope, that the world will hear the Voice and know Love. Go
in joy, for the transforming work of the Spirit has made you new.
Go in peace, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Be baptized
in the world. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Be Baptized: Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.