



*October 18, 2020*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Pastor

Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist

Sylvia O.

### *Sunday Meditation*

*History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.*

*Nelson Mandela*

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ**  
**Mt Hope 8:30am**      **Greenfield 9:50am**

**October 18, 2020**  
**Grace 11:00am**

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Children’s Sabbath**

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

**\* Call to Worship**

(Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

How shall we know that we have found favor in your sight, O God?

**How do children know that they are created in your image?**

How do we raise up youth to always know your presence goes with them?

**How do we find this faith within ourselves, O God?**

With Moses, we implore, “Show us your glory.”

**With the children, we seek your graciousness now.**

**\* Opening Hymn      “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”**

*Mt Hope VH #162      Greenfield CH #400      Grace VH #162*

*Gathering Prayer*

God of forever and right now,  
By your Spirit open our ears to hear your Word to us  
in scripture,  
in sermon,  
in song.

Open our eyes to see your Word to us  
in children’s faces,  
in troubling statistics,  
in our action together.

Open our hearts to feel your Word to us  
in the warmth of love,  
in the ache of sadness,  
in the energy of commitment.

Strengthen our desire for justice for all children,  
And our wills to advocate and organize,  
So that all children may grow up safe, and thrive in community.

### *Prayer of Confession*

Growing God, we confess that we cling to the comfortable, fall back on the familiar, and allow apathy to dull our hearts and our commitment. We shrug our shoulders and say that poverty is inevitable even as it deprives children of the fullness of life that you intend and they deserve. We throw up our hands at the number of children without health coverage and accept what is unacceptable. We shake our heads over the bursting prisons but turn away from the things that push children toward prison rather than keeping them on the path to success.

Forgive us, Growing God, for callousness instead of compassion, for discouragement instead of determination, for selfishness instead of service. Allow us to grow into your ways and find favor in your sight. Mature with us so that just love may be realized for all your children. Daydream with us so that we might do justice on the behalf of all children. Answer these prayers we pray in the name of your Beloved Child, the hope of the world. Amen.

### *Words of Assurance*

(Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

God grows with you. Look upon his face, as he speaks sweetly to you, saying, I will do the very thing you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.

### *The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

\* Doxology

\* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**O God,**

**Help us to recover our *hope* for our children's sake.**

**Help us to recover our *courage* for our children's sake.**

**Help us to recover our *discipline* for our children's sake.**

**Help us to recover our *ability to work together* for our children's sake.**

**Help us to recover our values for our children's sake.  
Help us to recover our faith in you for our children's sake.  
Amen.**

## *Epistle Reading*

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 NIV**

### *Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith*

<sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup> for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 22:15-22 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

### *Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar*

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup> They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup> Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

<sup>18</sup> But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

<sup>21</sup> “Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

<sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*                    “*Abide with Me*”  
Mt Hope PH #209      Greenfield CH #642      Grace TH #51

*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

\* *Closing Hymn*            “Jesus Shall Reign”            vs. 1-3  
Mt Hope VH #46            Greenfield CH #375            Grace VH #46

\* *Benediction*            (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

Growing God, we have known your presence.  
**We have lived in your love.**

Show us your glory.  
**Reveal your glory in us.**

We will carry your glory from here.  
**We will show it to all your children. Amen.**

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*            TH # 558  
\* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*