



October 25, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

When we love God and our neighbors, everything changes.

Matthew 22

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

October 25, 2020
Grace 11:00am

21st Sunday after Pentecost – Reformation Sunday

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

(Inspired by Psalm 90)

With hearts ready to serve,

**God turns our mourning into singing
and our sorrows into laughter.**

With hope and expectation,

**God turns our weeping into celebration
and our grief into shouts of joy.**

Come before the Lord with yearning, with hearts ready to serve.

* *Opening Hymn* *“The Church’s One Foundation”*

Mt Hope VH #161
vs. 1,4,5

Greenfield CH #401
vs 1,3,4

Grace VH #161
vs. 1,4,5

Gathering Prayer

Bless your servants, O God,
and favor us with your steadfast love.

May your love flow through us
like springs of living water,
that we may rejoice and be glad
all the days of our lives. Amen

Prayer of Confession

May your love, Eternal God, move all that stands before it. We
yearn to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, but often find
such love beyond us. Nurture us in your healing love, that fear
may hold no sway over us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God commands us to fulfill the law of love, by loving we have been loved. In fulfilling the law of love, we fulfill the law and the prophets. In fulfilling the law of love, we find forgiveness and peace.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 NIV

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”
- ⁴ A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning:
- ⁶ In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.

- ¹³ Relent, LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- ¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.
- ¹⁷ May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

TH #551

* Offertory Prayer

We have heard what we must do: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” May the offerings we bring this day be a sign of our commitment to be known by our love. Bless these offerings and our loving in your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 NRSV

Paul’s Ministry in Thessalonica

2 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 22:34-46 NIV

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

TH #497

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Whose Son Is the Messiah?

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”
“The son of David,” they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

⁴⁴ “‘The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet.””

⁴⁵ If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

* *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

* *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*

“He Hideth My Soul”

vs 1-3

Mt Hope VH #272

Greenfield CH #611

Grace VH #272

** Benediction*

(Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

God's love sends us forth.

God's love sets us free.

God's love makes us whole.

God's love brings us hope.

God's love blesses our lives.

God's love brings healing to our world.

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*