



October 4, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist
Sylvia O.

Sunday Meditation

If we show the Lord's death at Communion, we must show the Lord's life in the world. If it is a Eucharist on Sunday, it must prove on Monday that it was also a Sacrament.

Maltbie Davenport Babcock

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

October 4, 2020
Grace 11:00am

World Communion Sunday

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Creator God, we are here, together in hope!

With community and creation

With neighbors near and far

With those known and new

With Christians across geography and across time,

Together in hope! Let us worship!

* *Opening Hymn*

“Higher Ground”

Mt Hope VH #244

Greenfield CH #549

Grace VH #244

Gathering Prayer

Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your presence among your people, those gathered for worship, and all of your people, throughout your creation. May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly.

Amen.

Prayer of Yearning

God of second chances, you are always there for us.

In the midst of our grumbling,

we yearn to find the strength of our convictions.

In the course of our struggles, we long to soldier humbly on, forsaking positions of power and authority.

We want to work gladly in your vineyard,

without thought of reward or acknowledgement.

Renew us in your compassion and grace,
**that our eyes may be opened to your presence
and our minds may be filled with the very mind of Christ.
Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news:
No matter who you are or what you have done,
Christ welcomes us into God's kingdom with open arms.
When we open our hearts and our lives to Christ,
God's forgiveness is truly ours.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**God of overflowing abundance, when your people suffered
from thirst, you satisfied their need with water from a rock.
Receive our gifts this day, O God, and transform our gifts
into blessing that grace the lives of others like ever-flowing
streams. Receive our thanks and our praise, our industry
and our love, that all might share your manifold blessings.
Amen.**

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3: 4b-14 NIV

^{4b} If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his

resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 21:33-46 NIV

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

TH #497

The Parable of the Tenants

³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹ “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes”^[a]?

43 “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away
from you and given to a people who will produce its
fruit. 44 Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces;
anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”^[b]

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables,
they knew he was talking about them. 46 They looked for a way to
arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people
held that he was a prophet.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Mt Hope PH #155

Greenfield CH #300

Grace TH #135

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* “Tell Me the Story of Jesus”
Mt Hope VH #86 Greenfield CH #295 Grace VH #86

* *Benediction*

May the blessings of God,
the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit
go with you into the 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*