



October 13, 2024
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

It takes moral courage and conviction to defend justice and oppose injustice. To take the side of justice is justice, to give comfort to injustice is injustice.

Dr. T.P. Chia

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
21st Sunday after Pentecost / Eye of the Needle

October 13, 2024
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by Psalm 90

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

The Holy One meets us in the stillness of our thoughts, in the joy of our laughter, in the spontaneity of our encounters, in the hope of our presence.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

The Creator sustains us with mercy, reassures us with compassion, and challenges us with grace.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let us worship our Maker in spirit and in truth, through pain and despair, with the fullness of our being.

* *Invocation*

Everlasting God, we come before you with questions, and you question us in return. We declare that you are good, and you have declared us good. May we acknowledge that you make all things new, you redeem our days, and you empower us to be your people. In your presence, there is joy, and there is struggle. Peace surpasses understanding, and our hearts break. This defines the fullness of human community and experience in companionship with you. We give thanks for your presence and trust that you continue to transform the impossible into the possible. Make it so in us and through us in your precious name. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“More Love to Thee”

Mt Hope PH #400

Greenfield CH #634

Grace TH #471

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Just God, we confess our attachment to things of this world, to our possessions, and to objects of status. We acknowledge the pride we take in doing good things that require little of us while turning away from the needed thing that challenges our wants and desires. Make us repairers of brokenness and restorers of lost. Help us to discern that life in full pursuit of your kingdom is rich, full, and freeing. Even as you test us, help us meet the moment with abounding love and abiding faith. Amen.

Words of Grace

Dear One, God is with you. Hear these words of assurance from 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 NRSV

Job Replies: My Complaint Is Bitter

¹ Then Job answered:

² “Today also my complaint is bitter;
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!

⁴ I would lay my case before him
and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would learn what he would answer me
and understand what he would say to me.

⁶ Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No, but he would give heed to me.

⁷ There the upright could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸ “If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

⁹ on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

¹⁶ God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me.

¹⁷ If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 10:17-31 NRSV

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

TH #497

The Rich Man

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in

the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*”

Mt Hope VH #311

Greenfield CH #603

Grace VH #311

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

Gracious God, may the gifts we bring be magnified and do miracles in our community. Use them for restoration and hope as your kingdom is demonstrated before us all. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

Mt Hope VH #314

Greenfield CH #597

Grace VH #314

vs1,3,4,5

* *Benediction*

Be strengthened in God’s love.

Be held in God’s goodness.

Be enriched in God’s generosity.

Do the hard thing by the power of the Spirit.

Love our neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ.

And, repair and restore the Holy One’s good creation. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Eye of the Needle: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.