



# PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

*The kingdom of heaven is like a king  
who prepared a wedding banquet for his son...*

MATTHEW 22:1-14

**October 15, 2023**  
***Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ***

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## ***Sunday Morning Meditation***

*You are Braver than you Believe. Stronger than you Seem.  
Smarter than you think. And Loved more than you'll ever know.*

A.A. Milne

Winnie the Pooh Library

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ                      October 15, 2023  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am                      Grace 11:00am  
20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 'Filled from the Streets'

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*(Adapted from Psalm 106)*

Let's thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

**God's love endures forever.**

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare  
God's praise?

**Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.**

**Our God is worthy of our Praise!**

Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that  
we may enjoy your blessings.

**Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite  
love and abundant grace. Amen!**

\* *Invocation*

Lord Jesus, we gather to worship you today with hearts full of joy  
and appreciation for the beauty of your diversity and extravagant  
welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this space to celebrate  
your goodness and presence in our gathering time together.  
Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen!

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"The Solid Rock"*

*Mt Hope VH #232*

*Greenfield CH #526*

*Grace VH #232*

*Prayer of Confession*

We ask your forgiveness, O Lord, for not being truthful in  
acknowledging that we have failed you and those you entrusted in  
our care.

**We know that we have a long way to go, O Lord, we ask that  
you open our hearts to be receptive to your Holy Spirit.**

We ask you to transform our hearts within so that we will be renewed in our commitment to be the beloved community you are calling us to be.

*<Silent Reflection>*

**Hear our prayers for forgiveness, O Lord, that we may know your mercy and compassion. Amen!**

### *Words of Grace*

...God demonstrated his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) Beloved in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

### *Old Testament Reading*

**Isaiah 25:1-9 NIV**

#### *Praise to the Lord*

**25** LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you and praise your name,  
for in perfect faithfulness  
you have done wonderful things,  
things planned long ago.

<sup>2</sup> You have made the city a heap of rubble,  
the fortified town a ruin,  
the foreigners' stronghold a city no more;  
it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will honor you;  
cities of ruthless nations will revere you.

<sup>4</sup> You have been a refuge for the poor,  
a refuge for the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the storm  
and a shade from the heat.

For the breath of the ruthless  
is like a storm driving against a wall

<sup>5</sup> and like the heat of the desert.

You silence the uproar of foreigners;  
as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud,  
so the song of the ruthless is stilled.

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

<sup>7</sup> On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears  
from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace  
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;  
we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;  
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 22:1-14 NIV

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

TH #497

*The Parable of the Wedding Banquet*

**22** Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

<sup>4</sup>“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

<sup>5</sup>“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. <sup>6</sup>The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup>“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. <sup>9</sup>So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ <sup>10</sup>So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they

could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

<sup>13</sup> “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

<sup>14</sup> “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*      “*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*”

*Mt Hope PH #210*

*Greenfield CH #710*

*Grace TH #316*

*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

**Take our offerings and tithes, O God, bless them that they  
may be used to share your love and blessing in our  
community and the world. May these offerings provide for  
the least of these and the proclamation of your word to  
those seeking hope. Amen!**

## \* *Closing Hymn*

**“I Love to Tell the Story”**

*Mt Hope* VH #401

*Greenfield* CH #444

*Grace* VH #401

## \* *Benediction*

May the Love of the Creator sustain you!

May the peace of Jesus flow through you!

May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you with grace!

And give you the courage to share the good news! Amen!

## \* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

## \* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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“Filled from the Streets” Order of worship for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 15, 2023, continuing to Celebrate Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month, was written by the Rev. Pérsida Rivera-Méndez, retired UCC pastor.