



October 17, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
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Centering 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 | Proper 24

October 17, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

adapted from Hebrews 4:12-16

The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

We cannot hide for we are naked and laid bare to the one whom we must render an account.

Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you and I and yet was without sin.

We approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.

* *Opening Hymn* *“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”*

Mt Hope VH #328

Greenfield CH #591

Grace VH #328

Prayer of Invocation

O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world. Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly divided fairly. There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime. May we remember that all we have comes from you and that you have entrusted to us all that we have. May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us. Grant that we, O God, use this hour to work in our ministries to end this disparity. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and Holy One,
we cannot begin to count all our possessions.

We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.

We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years, and still we acquire more.

We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.

We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their need.

But we, O God, need your forgiveness for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge.

Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly so we can share our own abundance more equitably. Amen.

Words of Assurance

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things. True comfort comes from God's love for us and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger. By God's love we are forgiven.

Let us do likewise. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16 NRSV

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

* *Meditation Hymn*

“More Love To Thee”

Mt Hope PH #400

Greenfield CH #634

Grace TH #471

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

Generous God, we thank you for all that we have – for all of it comes from you. We gratefully return a portion of what we have to you. May our offerings sustain and support the work of this church to close the disparity between those who have much and those who have little in this community. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*”

Mt Hope VH #15

Greenfield CH #33

Grace VH #15

* *Benediction*

based upon Psalm 90:12,14,17

Let us count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Let God satisfy us this morning with steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Depart in peace and let God’s favor be upon us to prosper the work
of our hands.

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy
Spirit.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*