



*October 29, 2023*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

*If anyone can convince me that what I've written contradict Scripture, I will "be the first to seize my writings and commit them to the flames," but if I'm not convinced, it would be wrong for me as a Christian to recant beliefs that are biblical.*

*Martin Luther*  
*Address to the Diet at Worms (1521)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 'Love'

October 29, 2023  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*(Inspired by Psalm 90)*

The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

**God has been with us from generation to generation.**

We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

**Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.**

May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

**May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!**

\* *Invocation*

Righteous God, your law is love. Your message is love. Your presence is love. May Love fill our atmosphere and our interactions as we gather together in your name. May Love transform us, renew us, and revive us. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

*Mt Hope VH #29*

*Greenfield CH #151*

*Grace VH #29*

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

Loving God, forgive us for the paths we seek that steer us away from you. We confess that we have embraced animosity over understanding, self-righteousness over grace, hopelessness over empowered action. Demonstrate the power of love to us anew. Help us to be loving agents of your kingdom for your glory and the restoration of the world. Amen.

## *Words of Grace*

Beloved, know that your path evolves and the Creator cuts through the wilderness to make the rough ways smooth. The Holy One is Companion and Guide gently and firmly encouraging us to the path of righteous love, justice, and peace.

## *Old Testament Reading*

## **Deuteronomy 34:1-12 NIV**

### *The Death of Moses*

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, <sup>2</sup> all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, <sup>3</sup> the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

<sup>5</sup> And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. <sup>6</sup> He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. <sup>7</sup> Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. <sup>8</sup> The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

<sup>9</sup> Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup> Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, <sup>11</sup> who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. <sup>12</sup> For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

*Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica*

<sup>1</sup> You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. <sup>2</sup> We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. <sup>3</sup> For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. <sup>4</sup> On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. <sup>6</sup> We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. <sup>7</sup> Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup> so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 22:34-46 NIV

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

TH #497

*The Greatest Commandment*

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

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

*Whose Son Is the Messiah?*

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

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

<sup>44</sup> “The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand  
until I put your enemies  
under your feet.””

<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup> 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 / Congregation Conversation*

\* *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

## *The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

\* Doxology

TH # 551

\* Offertory Prayer

**Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of  
presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work  
of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference  
and participate in your kingdom through generosity.  
Amen.**

## \* *Closing Hymn*

*“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

*Mt Hope PH #218*

*Greenfield CH #676*

*Grace TH #271*

## \* *Benediction*

May the love of God dispel the gloom, ease the disquiet, and fill  
your soul with gladness. You are loved. You are love. Go in peace  
and the love of God for the glory of God and the hope for creation.

## \* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

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

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**Love:** Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.