



Reformation
Sunday

October 31, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Centering Meditation

“A person who...does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs.”

Martin Luther
1538

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
23rd Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 26
Reformation Sunday

October 31, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Hear the commandments of our God.

First, love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Recite the commandments to your children and hold them in your hearts.

All: Second, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Mt Hope VH #29

Greenfield CH #151

Grace VH #29

Prayer of Invocation

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another. As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love - to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body. We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of destiny. We pray for those who we elect to serve all citizens that they may be guided not by ego, politics, or money, but by compassion for all people. Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation to follow the path of love. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Again and again you call us to care for widows and orphans, to advocate for those in prison, to welcome the strangers.

God, we hear your call, but all around us we hear the cry that there is not enough for all, and that some are undeserving.

Again and again you call us to love you with our whole heart, understanding, and strength; such love demands that we seek justice for those who are oppressed, poor, and forgotten.

God, we hear your call, But all around us are competing calls of worldly loyalties, political parties, and public acclaim.

Again and again, you urge us to seek you first. We long to trust the path of love for you and our neighbors as ourselves.

Yet we fear that our “land of milk and honey” has become a land of moral famine and economic hardship, and we wonder at times if you have abandoned us.

Again and again you urge us not to lean on our own understanding but in all our ways to acknowledge you, and yet

we are often distracted by the clamor of fear dressed up as reason.

As we prepare our hearts and minds in these days, at times we forget to observe your statutes of compassion and your ordinances of justice.

Again, you remind us to follow you so that it may go well for us, our neighbors, our nation, and our world.

Words of Assurance

Hear the word of God for this season and all seasons: “Do not be afraid! I will never leave you or forsake you.” Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it. As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God, may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us. And so it is. **Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 NIV

Love the Lord Your God

6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 119:1-8 NIV

¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

² Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—

³ they do no wrong
but follow his ways.

⁴ You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.

⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!

⁶ Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.

⁸ I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 12:28-34 NIV

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

TH #497

The Greatest Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“We come Unto Our Father’s God”

Mt Hope PH #271

Greenfield CH Insert

Grace TH #361

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

Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* "*Blessed Assurance*"
Mt Hope VH #200 *Greenfield* CH #572 *Grace* VH #200

* *Benediction*

Go forth, following as the Holy Spirit leads you, moving in love and compassion, pursuing justice and mercy, and trusting in the God of peace. For the Source of all life and love is as close as your very breath. Breathe deeply.

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*