



October 8, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

It is a favorite thing with infidels to set their own standard, to measure themselves by other people. But that will not do in the Day of Judgment. Now we will use God's law as a balance weight.

– D. L. Moody
Weighed and Wanting (19th century)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
19th Sunday after Pentecost / 'Producing Fruit'

October 8, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

We come from the East, the West, the South, and the North into this sacred space to worship the living God who walks with us.

O, God, we worship you for who you are, for loving and granting us your grace.

We lift our hands in praise to you and open our hearts to worship you in the fullness of who we are.

Let us worship the Lord our God with joyful and thankful hearts. Amen!

* *Invocation*

Jesus, we ask that You bless our time together, that we may hear Your words and apply them to our lives so that You will be honored and glorified. Allow your Holy Spirit to move through us so our faith grows and bears fruit. Amen!

* *Opening Hymn* *"All Beautiful the March of Days"*

Mt Hope PH #456 Greenfield NCH #434 Grace TH #429

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we bow before you to confess that we are sinners and need forgiveness. We have failed you and your people many times and have neglected to do your will and love our neighbor as ourselves. We seek your wisdom and ask that your Holy Spirit create a pure heart that moves us to do what is right. We ask that your love overflow in us so we can live out our faith as a new creation to serve you and your people. Help us to strive towards a more just and kinder world for all. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen!

Words of Grace

People of God, “for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—” Your sins are forgiven. (Ephesians 2:8 NIV)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 NIV

The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

⁴ Yet their voice^[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 21:33-46 NIV

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

TH #497

The Parable of the Tenants

³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹ “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes”?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *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

**Lord Jesus, we give thanks for each gift given. Bless them
and multiply them so that others will be blessed, and your
love will be shared worldwide. Amen!**