



October 9, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed. It means the damage no longer controls our lives.

Akshay Dubey

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
18th Sunday after Pentecost / 'Show Us Mercy'

October 9, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Come, beloved of God, and pause in the place of liminal longing.

We come betwixt and between, pulled in many directions.

Trust that the Holy One is already forming a new creation in you.

We come trusting God's mercy to center and change us.

Indeed, the Holy One calls you by name for deeds of mercy.

May God's ancient action be a present presence as we gather.

* *Invocation*

Holy Love, take our weary waiting and form in us a readiness for renewal. Shape our hearts for healing, our minds for mending, and our souls for sharing. Let no weight of the moment prevent our remembering of your long reach of faithfulness cast over the whole creation. Still us enough to discover again your prayer rising in our praying, that we may be formed by Your love made known to us in Jesus Christ. By this, change us on the inside that our outer lives may more clearly reflect your will and way of mercy into the world. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* "*Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus*"

Mt Hope VH #368

Greenfield CH #730

Grace VH #368

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God, form in me a space for healing and enter in anew. For too long I have clutched the past in ways that have prevented the possibility of moving forward. Boundaries of my own making have kept me resistant to your healing mercy. Definitions of the world's making have created divisions preventing the possibility of a new day, a new season, a new life. Lift every burden and release me from every long-rehearsed

story holding me hostage to any narrative of hopelessness, hurt and fear. Grant instead a lightness of spirit forgiving me and freeing me to leap into a dance of delight beyond my wildest imagination.

Words of Grace

Hear the good news! Into our little openings of trust, God is pouring a large love born of mercy. No burden of your past is stronger than this power of Love to forgive, heal, and bless. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Now may our lives become songs of thanksgiving and praise that others too may discover the amazing power of God to make all things new!

Psalm Reading

Psalm 66:1-12 The Message

¹⁻⁴ All together now—applause for God!

Sing songs to the tune of his glory,
set glory to the rhythms of his praise.

Say of God, “We’ve never seen anything like him!”

When your enemies see you in action,
they slink off like scolded dogs.

The whole earth falls to its knees—

it worships you, sings to you,
can’t stop enjoying your name and fame.

⁵⁻⁶ Take a good look at God’s wonders—
they’ll take your breath away.

He converted sea to dry land;
travelers crossed the river on foot.

Now isn’t that cause for a song?

⁷ Ever sovereign in his high tower, he keeps
his eye on the godless nations.

Rebels don’t dare
raise a finger against him.

⁸⁻¹² Bless our God, O peoples!

Give him a thunderous welcome!

Didn’t he set us on the road to life?

Didn’t he keep us out of the ditch?

He trained us first,
passed us like silver through refining fires,
Brought us into hardscrabble country,
pushed us to our very limit,

Road-tested us inside and out,
took us to hell and back;
Finally he brought us
to this well-watered place.

Epistle Reading

2 Timothy 2:8-15 NIV

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure,
we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,
he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

¹⁴ Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*
Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

Luke 17:11-19 NIV

TH #497

Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Let Us With a Gladsome/Joyful Mind*”

Mt Hope PH #70

Greenfield NCH #16

Grace TH #77

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

Holy One, in Jesus Christ you have shown what your heart is like - merciful and abounding in steadfast love. Form that same spirit in us that our lives may become continual prayers of thanksgiving. Let no cry of your creation go unheard. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”
Mt Hope VH #71 *Greenfield* CH #503 *Grace* VH #71

* *Benediction*

Go, my friends, because the mercy of God has freed you from your past. Go, because the mercy of God calls you forward into the world. Go, because the blessing of mercy you offer to others will lighten the burden they are carrying. Go, because by this mercy of God, we are all healed again and again. Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen!

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Show Us Mercy: Service Prayers for the 18th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 23 were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.