



November 15, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist
Sylvia O.

Sunday Meditation

“You only become truly rich the day you possess something that
money cannot buy.”

Matshona Dhlwayo

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ November 15, 2020
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am

24th Sunday after Pentecost – Harvest Home Sunday

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Sing the new day

O God, we come.

Sing a new song

Awakened, we come.

Sing to the light

So beckoned, we come.

* *Opening Hymn* “*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*”

Mt Hope VH #237

Greenfield CH #680

Grace VH #237

Gathering Prayer

There is a richness here –

**a richness that greets and grows and holds and challenges
and keeps.**

There is a richness here –

a richness that surrounds and brings and delivers and gives.

The richness holds us in our weakness,

fills us in our hunger, finds us when we’re lost.

So here, richly blessed, we have come, and we have been found.

Let this time together inspire us in richness and grace.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

There is a richness here – a gorgeous, flowing richness of unending abundance. But that doesn’t mean that it guides us. Our ways – within and beyond our control – speak of something different: of lack, of fear, of something other than an acknowledgement of

God's endless and beautiful river of grace.

But how do we step into that river?

Do we step into it with trust?

Do we trust the current of God's generous gifts?

Or do we run from the river? For when we run, when we turn away from God's gifts in distrust, we lose the refreshment and joy of that richness...And something else reigns.

Then, what's left?

Now is the time – now is the time to consider just how we distrust God's abundance. Now is the time – now is the time to begin something new. Now is the time – now is the time to trust ... differently.

Silence

Words of Assurance

Let us pray:

We haven't always trusted, God. But now we do.

We acknowledge the richness of your blessings

We see your flowing river of love

And we wade into your grace.

There is a richness – a richness that says *yes* – eternally – even in the face of our behavioral *nos*. There is a richness that penetrates distrust and offers so much more. This richness forgives and gives even more.

We know this forgiveness.

And we thank you, God. Amen.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

O God, we have come, and what a delight it has been! We have come before your table with gifts – gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of trust. We thank you for the chance to give and pray that we and all whom our gifts bless will never be the same. Through our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A song of ascents.

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
- ² As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he shows us his mercy.
- ³ Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.
- ⁴ We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 25:14-30 NIV

MH pg. 1578

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

TH #497

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “O How I Love Jesus” vs 1,2,4
Mt Hope VH #253 *Greenfield CH #92*

“Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul”
Grace VH #259

Today's Message

