



The Ten  
Virgins  
Parable  
  
Be Ready

*November 8, 2020*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Pastor  
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*Sunday Meditation*

“One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD. And He will repay him for his good deed.”

**Proverbs 19:17**

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am

November 8, 2020  
Grace 11:00am

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Harvest Home Sunday

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Call upon God's Wisdom  
**He will answer!**

Seek God's Wisdom  
**He dwells in the midst of life.**

Follow God's Wisdom  
**He leads in the paths of light and generosity.**

\* *Opening Hymn*            *“Take My Life, and Let It Be”*

*Mt Hope* VH #314            *Greenfield* CH #597            *Grace* VH #314

*Gathering Prayer*

Holy God,  
We hear echoes of your Wisdom in Christ Jesus,  
The One you sent to dwell in our midst  
and lead us to abundant life.  
Keep us alert to the call to follow,  
ready to respond with justice and joy  
in your holy moment,  
which is always Now. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession*

**Amos 5:18-24**

Though we may delight to be here, together, in worship, let us remember that the Prophet Amos offers us a word from God to challenge any complacent comfort.

Our praise, our worship, our singing, however beautiful and heartfelt, must be accompanied by the work of justice in community.

What pleases God is to have justice pour from our lives like waters, and righteousness from our work, like an ever-flowing stream.

So let us pause for a moment: what parts of our lives, our community, our world, are thirsting for waters of Justice and Righteousness?

*Silence*

### *Words of Assurance*

God's grace flows through our lives, refreshing and making all things new. Let this grace flow from us as justice and righteousness, that our lives and work may bless our world, In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### *Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 78:1-7 NIV**

**MH pg. 922**

- <sup>1</sup> My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
- <sup>3</sup> things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.
- <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- <sup>5</sup> He decreed statutes for Jacob  
and established the law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach their children,
- <sup>6</sup> so the next generation would know them,  
even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn would tell their children.
- <sup>7</sup> Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds  
but would keep his commands.

## *The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

\* Doxology

\* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**God, we have come, and given generously of our gifts. Take, bless, and multiply them so that they may be a blessing in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## *Epistle Reading*

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NIV**

**MH pg. 1875**

### *Believers Who Have Died*

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 25:1-13 NIV**

**MH pg. 1578**

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

**TH #497**

### *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

“*Lord, Speak To Me*”

vs 1-3

*Mt Hope* VH #215

*Greenfield* CH #667

*Grace* VH #215

*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

\* *Closing Hymn*                      *"Revive Us Again"*  
    *Mt Hope VH #53*                      *Greenfield CH #434*                      *Grace VH #53*

\* *Benediction*

Keep your lamps filled and your hearts open,  
ready for the call of God.  
Go in peace, counting on  
the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*                      TH # 558

\* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*