



Come ye thankful
People come...

November 10, 2024
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor

Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Pianist

Sylvia Olewinski (MTH)

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Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist

Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Centering Words

Sow love, and taste its fruitage pure; sow peace, and reap
its **harvest** bright; sow sunbeams on the rock and moor, and find
a **harvest-home** of light.

H. Bonar

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ November 10, 2024
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Abundance and Poverty / Harvest Home Sunday

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by Psalm 146

From generation to generation, the Holy One has loved justice and righteousness, lifted the broken and bowed, and opened possibilities for the dejected.

Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Trust the Holy One!

When the power brokers, corrupt systems, and tools of violence have failed us, the Holy One has remained faithful to abiding love and abundant liberation.

Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Follow the Holy One!

Praise the Holy One with song and dance, in spirit and in truth, for God's glory and for life abundantly!

Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Praise the Holy One!

* *Invocation*

Living God, we offer you praise in your presence. We give you thanks for life in this community. Some come seeking. Others come assured. Some have questions. Others simply want company. Whatever our reasons for gathering, may they all lead us to an encounter with you, your grace, and your way. Infuse us with your power, forged in love, so that we might be encouraged and respond as agents of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Mt Hope PH #273

Greenfield CH #426

Grace TH #280

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of mercy and possibilities, forgive us for clinging to the measures of success and security in our world rather than trusting in the abundance of your creation. Help us to recognize the kingdom coming and our role as participants in your realm. Liberate us from the bonds of consumerism, scarcity, and self-centeredness, and make us vessels of your love come alive in the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Beloved, you are inheritors of the kingdom of God. You receive riches beyond compare. The Holy One journeys with you and enables you to grow in grace, peace, and contentment.

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 17:8-16 NRSV

The Widow of Zarephath

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹ “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 12:38-44 NRSV

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

TH #497

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

³⁸ As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

The Widow’s Offering

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children’s Message / Congregation Conversation / Harvest Home Sunday

* *Meditation Hymn* “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Mt Hope VH #355

Greenfield CH #816

Grace VH #355

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

**God of generosity and giver of gifts, receive our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and trust in your sovereignty. Like the widow and Elijah, may the jars that sustain us never empty and never fail. May we witness the miracle of your provision through our generosity and for your glory.
Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn* *“Rejoice, the Lord is King”*
Mt Hope PH #204 Greenfield CH #370 Grace VH #45

* *Benediction*

When the needs of the world compel you,
May the blessings of God assure you,
May the abundance of God inspire you, and
May the goodness of God embolden you
To resist the systems of scarcity and
To embrace a life of generosity, compassion, and mutuality
In the presence of Creator’s abundance. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Abundance and Poverty: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.