



November 20, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

Whosoever will reign with Christ in heaven, must have Christ reigning in him on earth.

John Wesley

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ November 20, 2022

Mt Hope 8:30am

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Reign of Christ / “Gathered”

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We gather to celebrate another day that God has kept us.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change.

We gather to bear witness to all that God has done for us.

Come, behold the works of God!

We gather to worship our God who loves and protects us.

* *Invocation*

Though many forces have scattered us in various ways, we invite you to bring us together within ourselves and all around us.

Prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits, Gathering God, to be present and ready to receive exactly what we need from this time of worship. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

Mt Hope VH #7

Greenfield CH #45

Grace VH #7

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

It’s so easy for us to get caught up in our human-made divisions.

Whether survival instincts or capitalistic drive, we separate ourselves from those who don’t look, think, or act like us. We unintentionally allow our differences to stain the beauty of your diversity. Our many different households, family structures, belief systems, and various identities become tools of divisiveness rather than gifts of the divine.

<observe a brief stretch of silence>

Even when we cling to the things that unnecessarily separate us, God unscatters us. No matter who we are or what has

brought us to this very moment, God chooses to love us back to wholeness, individually and communally. Hallelujah and amen!

Words of Grace

Just as God spoke to those in Jeremiah's day, we're faced with an opportunity to participate in God's restorative action in the world. Where others have scattered, God is gathering. Let us be empowered to share our gifts fruitfully and allow God to multiply them for the good of all.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6 NIV

The Righteous Branch

23 “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. ³“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:11-20 NIV

¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 23:33-43 NIV

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

TH #497

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*”

Mt Hope VH #15

Greenfield CH #33

Grace VH #15

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

**We’re grateful for your invitation to move and give faithfully
and abundantly, God. We ask that you extend your
blessings over these gifts that we now offer so that they can
be multiplied in service to you and the missions of this
congregation. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn* “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”
Mt Hope VH #8 Greenfield CH #43 Grace VH #8

* *Benediction*

May you experience God’s goodness in your coming, going, and staying. May you witness God’s activity in your work, play, and world at large. May you feel God’s presence in your life, relationships, and self. May you know God’s love now and forever more. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Gathered: Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday were written by The Rev. Phiwa Langeni is the Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement for the UCC’s CARDD, and the Founder and former Director of Salus Center in Lansing, MI.