



November 21, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
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Pianist
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Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Centering Meditation

“I rejoice that the reign of Christ is such, while it thrills the soul with emotions, and opens before the highest intellect the most boundless conceptions, we are left at the same time ready, though our hearts be thrilled, to have our hands filled for deeds of benevolence and love. The happiest moments may be the busiest moments.”

Matthew Simpson

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
26th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 29
Reign of Christ Sunday

November 21, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Grace to you and peace from the one who is, who was, and who is to come.

Grace from Jesus, the faithful witness and lover of our souls.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come.”

**To the one who loves us and who freed us from our sins, to
God be the glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

Lord of Love, we give thanks that we belong to your kingdom, which is higher and greater than any human power. Every child and elder, every neighbor and foreigner finds a home in your kingdom of peace. Jesus said, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Give us ears to hear the voice of Christ our king above the din of human voices. Settle the dust that becomes stirred up inside us by debate or division. Give us eyes to see your will and ears to hear your word, so that we may love one another, love ourselves, and love you with all that we are. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Mt Hope VH #156

Greenfield CH #563

Grace TH #156

Prayer of Confession

Eternal Monarch, you who rule over all of us with justice and care. We your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule, that we do not always participate in your reign of equity and integrity, that we have not followed the example you set forth.

Instead, we often place our trust in leaders who let us down, and in our own flawed leadership of others.

Lead us, Christ our Sovereign, and set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do. Amen.

Words of Assurance

We who are dependent upon our divine ruler
have Christ's example ever before us,
to give us guidance and hope.

Take heart that you are forgiven
and may return to that example again.

First Reading

2 Samuel 23:1-7 NIV

David's Last Words

These are the last words of David:

“The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
the hero of Israel's songs:

²“The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me;
his word was on my tongue.

³The God of Israel spoke,
the Rock of Israel said to me:

‘When one rules over people in righteousness,
when he rules in the fear of God,

⁴he is like the light of morning at sunrise
on a cloudless morning,

like the brightness after rain

that brings grass from the earth.’

⁵“If my house were not right with God,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation
and grant me my every desire.

⁶But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,
which are not gathered with the hand.

⁷Whoever touches thorns
uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;
they are burned up where they lie.”

Epistle Reading

Revelation 1:4-8 NIV

⁴John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

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

John 18:33-37 NIV

TH #497

³³Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #46

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Greenfield CH #375

Grace VH #46

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.**

