



*November 26, 2023*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

[www.greenfieldcharge.org](http://www.greenfieldcharge.org)

[greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com](mailto:greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com)

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor  
Mrs. Wendy Farber

[farberhome@atlanticbb.net](mailto:farberhome@atlanticbb.net)

Pianist  
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech  
Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist  
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

### *Sunday Morning Meditation*

Everyone else came into the world to live; Jesus came into the world to die.

– Fulton Sheen  
*Life of Christ (1958)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
Reign of Christ / 'Care'

November 26, 2023  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*Inspired by Psalm 100*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Worship with gladness and singing!

**God is Creator, Sustainer, Keeper, and Shepherd. Bless God's name.**

Enjoy the presence of God! Give thanks and praise!

**God is Sovereign and Holy. Bless God's name.**

Know that God reigns! God's kingdom comes!

**God is Healer, Redeemer, Restorer, and Friend. Bless God's name!**

\* *Invocation*

God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

*Mt Hope PH #29*

*Greenfield CH #788*

*Grace TH #72*

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

**Sovereign God, transform us in your image. Your reign is just and righteous. We go our own way and live according to our own will. Make us ambassadors of your kingdom. Let us represent you through words and actions. May we release our need for anything that creates a barrier to loving you and our neighbor. May we know and bear witness that we are all neighbors. Amen.**

## *Words of Grace*

Beloved, you are loved unconditionally by the Everlasting One. The kingdom is yours to embrace and enter with full citizenship. Know that every move toward God transforms you. Every confession of God's sovereignty fortifies. Every moment in the presence of God restores you.

## *Epistle Reading*

**Ephesians 1:15-23 NRSV**

### *Paul's Prayer*

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## \* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 25:31-46 NRSV**

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

**TH #497**

### *The Judgment of the Nations*

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me

food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’ <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?’ <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *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.**

*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

**Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet the needs and hopes of your kingdom. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*                      *“Showers of Blessings”*  
*Mt Hope* VH #284      *Greenfield* CH #430      *Grace* VH #284

\* *Benediction*

As you go, may you recognize God in the stranger. May you extend hospitality and care to your neighbor. And may you trust in the reign of God forever. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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**Care:** Service Prayers for the Reign of Christ Sunday was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.



The Recipe Box at Claar’s Plaza in Claysburg (owned by Monte Cowher’s granddaughter Lexi!) is sponsoring a sock drive for the homeless. A big box is located just inside the door if you would like to make a donation.