



*November 27, 2022*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Advent Thought*

Advent announces that Jesus is coming and not through any action of our own. We do not deserve it. Advent happens. Advent means that Jesus comes again and for all time, at Christmas, this Christmas.

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ      November 27, 2022**

**Mt Hope 8:30am**

**Greenfield 9:50am**

**Grace 11:00am**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens / Hope**

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

*\* Call to Worship*

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!"

**We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God's gates.**

Come, let us go up to the mountain

that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

*\* Invocation*

God of the faith that the bleak past taught us, God of the hope that the present has brought us, we call on you in this hour of worship.

We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us— Emmanuel, even before the child was born. We open our hearts to receive your gifts, for you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace, the Giver of joy, the Giver love. Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you.

Amen.

*\* Opening Hymn*

**“Of the Father's Love Begotten”**

*Mt Hope PH #111*

*Greenfield CH #240*

*Grace TH #13*

## *Advent Candle Lighting Litany*

Today is the beginning of the Advent – the preparation time for celebrating Christ’s birth. We are here because God’s promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God’s promise is kept each Sunday when we worship because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

### *Old Testament Scripture*

**Isaiah 2:1-5 NIV**

#### *The Mountain of the Lord*

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup> In the last days

the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.  
They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.

<sup>5</sup> Come, descendants of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

## *Lighting the First Candle of HOPE*

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope.

Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world.

*<lighting of the candle>*

## *Advent Prayer*

**O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so that we may be a people of hope in our world.**

## *\* Candle Lighting Hymn*

**“Joy to the World!”**

*Mt Hope VH #88*

*Greenfield CH #270*

*Grace VH #88*

## *Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair, and uncertainty.

*<observe a brief stretch of silence>*

**In a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God. Consumed by the chaos of the world, we lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace. We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods felt in days when unborn hope had died; We’ve forgotten that you promised us hope for a future. So, stimulate our memory, dear God. Remind us of that hope you assured us of. Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.**

## *Words of Grace*

Let us know that God gives us unmerited hope for a future, peace like a river, joy everlasting, and love. No misstep can separate us from the gifts of God. Amen.

## *Old Testament Reading*

## **Psalm 122 NIV**

- <sup>1</sup> I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- <sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing  
in your gates, Jerusalem.
- <sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built like a city  
that is closely compacted together.
- <sup>4</sup> That is where the tribes go up—  
the tribes of the LORD—  
to praise the name of the LORD  
according to the statute given to Israel.
- <sup>5</sup> There stand the thrones for judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.
- <sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May those who love you be secure.
- <sup>7</sup> May there be peace within your walls  
and security within your citadels.”
- <sup>8</sup> For the sake of my family and friends,  
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- <sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your prosperity.

## *Epistle Reading*

## **Romans 13:11-14 NIV**

### *The Day Is Near*

<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 24:36-44 NIV

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

TH #497

*The Day and Hour Unknown*

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Hanging of the Greens*

\* *Meditation Hymn*    *“I Know Whom I Have Believed”*

*Mt Hope VH #341*

*Greenfield CH #527*

*Grace VH #341*

*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

**For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission, we dedicate these gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*                    “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
    *Mt Hope* VH #93            *Greenfield* CH #245            *Grace* VH #93

\* *Benediction*

Go forth with the gift of hope  
Guiding you toward the path of peace.  
Go forth with the gift of joy  
Guide you toward the path of love.  
Go forth with anticipation,  
Trusting that God will bless and keep you,  
God’s face will shine upon you,  
And God’s grace will never leave you.  
Amen

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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**Hope:** Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She is an ordained UCC minister.