



November 28, 2021
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 28, 2021
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am
First Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Emmanuel! God with us!

Incarnate one! Embodied one!

Crying one! Bleeding one!

At-table one! Loving one!

Hand-in-the-wounds one!

Signs-in-the-moon one!

Hear our plea!

Come! Be here now.

* *Opening Hymn* “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Mt Hope VH #93

Greenfield CH #245

Grace VH #93

Lighting the first Advent Candle – The Candle of Hope

O Holy One, we light this first candle, a candle of grief, in the midst of the stories of the last year; Let it burn through these weeks as a beacon to become *The light of Hope*. Let it guide us to your presence in our midst, leading us to your Justice and Joy in the service of Peace.

God be with us in this Light of Hope.

Lighting of the first Candle

Prayer of Confession

O God of wholeness,
Let us not be put to shame.
Some of us live *with* shame everyday
 In our bodies
 In our hearts
 In our self-images, self-esteem, and self-regard.

Have mercy.

Others of us have afflicted our siblings with shame
 By our racism
 By our ableism
 By our sexism, heterosexism, and cissexism.

Have mercy.

You instruct both sinners and the upright in your ways, Sovereign one.

**Teach us, that some of us may be free,
and some of us may learn to be free of fault. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

The God of unlimited compassion
will strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless and whole before our God and Parent
at the coming of our brother Jesus with all the saints.

Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NIV

¹⁴“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵“In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
This is the name by which it^[a] will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 21:25-36 NIV

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

TH #497

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Hanging of the Greens

Today marks the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of going toward the coming again of the Messiah, a time of great expectation and great anticipation. But exactly what is it that we anticipate? What are we getting ready for? What do we expect to happen? Are we preparing our hearts and spirits to receive again the coming of the Christ child into the world? Or are we too busy feeling upset and depressed this year?

The hanging of the greens, the beauty of the Christmas tree, the lighting of the first Advent candle; all these invite us to dream dreams of a better world, to allow expectant visions that have nothing to do with sugar-plum fairies to dance in our heads.

Advent invites us to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow - when the Christ child of this Advent Season returns as the King of our hearts.

So, whether you are here today in person or worshipping from your individual homes, let us now hang our greens together as the united children of God.

* *Meditation Hymn* “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Mt Hope Insert Greenfield CH #244 Grace Insert

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

The day of redemption draws near

For all who labor but do not eat,

For all who are hated for how they love.

For all who live with a sense of foreboding,

**wondering what injury will be inflicted on their bodies
because of their bodies.**

**We offer these gifts as a taste of the equitable world to
come.**

* *Closing Hymn* *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*

Mt Hope PH #273

Greenfield CH #426

Grace TH #280

* *Benediction*

Emmanuel! God with us!

Incarnate one! Embodied one!

Send us forth with confidence to seek you where you dwell

in the signs-in-the-moon-and-sun-and-stars,

in the turbulence of our lives,

and in unexpected Hope.

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy
Spirit. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*