



December 6, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
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Advent Thought

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

Frederick Buechner

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am

December 6, 2020
Grace 11:00am

2nd Sunday of Advent

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Let us hear what God will speak,
Tender words for a burdened people:

Comfort, comfort, my people!

The days of sorrow are ending!

Let us hear what God will speak,
Encouraging words for an anxious people:

Prepare a way for the Holy One,

Through deserts of despair

build a highway for our God!

Let us hear what God will speak,
words of vision for a weary people:

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss!

Come, let us worship!

* *Opening Hymn*

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Mt Hope VH #113

Greenfield CH #87

Grace VH #113

Lighting the Second Advent Candle - The Candle of Peace

O Holy One, we light this second candle, a candle offering comfort to weary spirits after a year of pain and loss. Let its glow remind us of your tender care and warm our lives in the Light of Peace.

Let it guide us to your presence in our midst, leading us to your Justice and Joy in the service of Love.

God be with us in this Light of Peace.

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Prayer

O Holy One,
you are tender shepherd,
architect of the Way,
beguiling hope of all who go looking for you
deep in their lives.
Surprise us here with
Sweetness, challenge, vision—
Whatever we may need
In this moment to recognize you
and follow you into the future.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Beloved. Amen

Prayer of Confession

The year past has been riddled with crisis and losses: Covid-19,
natural disasters of fire and hurricane, exposure of societal
injustices rooted in racist and sexist structures, painful political
reckonings.

In this moment we are called to examine our hearts for our role in
the last year: to name what traditionally have been called

Sins of Commission—
that is, what we may have done
to contribute to the pain and chaos of these days;

Sins of Omission—
that is, what we may have left undone
which contributed to the pain,
or failed to help alleviate suffering.

Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

Comfort, comfort, my people, says the God of Justice and
Compassion. You are forgiven your sin, and showered with grace
to change your life, and to work toward the kingdom of the One
who is to Come: New heavens and new earth, where righteousness
is at home. **Amen.**

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

O Faithful One, accept these gifts of our hearts and hands.

May they be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a NIV

Mt. Hope pg. 1930

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 1:1-8 NIV

Mt. Hope pg. 1589

TH #497

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

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.””

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*”

Mt Hope VH #150

Greenfield CH #390

Grace VH #150

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

* *Closing Hymn* “Grace Greater Than Our Sin”
Mt Hope VH #190 Greenfield CH #344 Grace VH #190

* *Benediction*

Go forth into the world energized to seek signs of God’s future
everywhere: especially in the unruly, unkempt, and persistent
voices of Prophets in our midst: calling us to prepare the way in
our lives and our world For the Holy One who is coming!

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

* *Three-Fold Amen*

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle* TH # 558

* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*