



December 12, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org
greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Advent Thought

But those who wait on the LORD, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 NKJV

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Gathering one! Embracing one!

Gentle one! Emblazoned one!

Winnowing one! Restorative one!

The one who has come! The one who will come!

The one who bears the image of those who bear God's.

Worthy are you, mysterious one!

* *Opening Hymn* *“Rejoice, the Lord is King”*

Mt Hope PH #204

Greenfield CH #370

Grace VH #45

Prayer of Confession

God, we come before you humbled and distraught.

John, your prophet, said it clearly and plainly:

"Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none;
and whoever has food must do likewise."

We are awash in excessive belongings–

And we only part with that which no longer suits us.

We feel too deserving of our luxuries,

And only give our scraps to the poor.

We cannot stop. Help us, compassionate one.

Words of Assurance

Know this well, “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” God will save one and all from their oppressors, even from the oppressive greed and anxiety that lives inside of them and separates them from the community’s need. Sing praises! God has done gloriously! **Amen.**

Advent Candle Hymn – The Candle of Joy

Tune of “*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*”

*O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!*

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well*

*O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well*

*O come to us like joy of heaven’s dawn,
From Mary’s womb a faithful paragon
Brought forth into this world by love’s power
Your Spirit through her labors in that hour*

Rejoice, rejoice!

*Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well*

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 3:7-18)

When confusion claims us
When we feel unable to do anything right
The Holy invites us to be faithful
That we may find Joy

Lighting of the Joy Candle

Where in the world do we find Joy these days?

Final Exhortations

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 3:7-18 NIV

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

TH #497

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing

floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Mt Hope PH #111

Greenfield CH #240

Grace TH #13

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

**Gather us back together, O God,
we who have separated ourselves
from our neighbors
from our higher selves
and from your expansive Love.
Reunite us with our calling. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn* “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
Mt Hope VH #503 *Greenfield* CH #630 *Grace* VH #503

* *Benediction*

Gathering one! Embracing one!

The one-who-bears-the-image-of-those-who-bear-God’s.

Open our hearts to find you in community,

In the hopeful, peaceful, joyful work of your people.

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*