



December 19, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Advent Thought

All the world rejoices at the news of Jesus' coming. To those who believe the infant born in Bethlehem is truly Immanuel - God With Us - the news brings us not only joy, but a sense of awesome responsibility.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
4th Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Enwombed one! Dependent one!

Triumphant one! Mighty one!

Toppling-expectations-one!

Magnified one! Satisfying-with-Justice one!

We are hungry for you.

Fill us with your good things.

* *Opening Hymn* “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Mt Hope VH #89

Greenfield CH #250

Grace VH #89

Prayer of Confession

Based on Psalm 80:1-7

Our God, restore us.

Show us your true face and save us.

We make enemies of the weak and poor

And leave them to fend for themselves.

You were poor.

Show us your true face and save us.

As a country we have not kept up.

We are rightly mocked for our outlandish disparities.

You knew how it was to be treated Less Than.

Show us your true face and save us.

We are caught in a cycle, not understanding mercy.

Even our prayers are vengeful.

You taught us to pray.

Show us your true face and save us.

Words of Pardon

Here is our hope and our challenge:

Christ is among us. Christ is incarcerated. Christ is hospitalized.

Christ is malnourished and inadequately clothed.

Christ is on Food Stamps. Christ is disabled. Christ is abused.

Christ is a young, black man with a taillight out.

Christ is transgender.

Christ is playing with a toy gun.

Christ cannot afford medicine.

If we have courage to seek, we may yet find him.

Advent Candle Hymn – The Candle of Love

Insert

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 1:46-55)

When we feel invisible, ineffective,

Too small to make a difference

The Holy invites us to be God-Bearers

And we shall find Love

Lighting of the Love Candle

Where in the world do we find Love these days?

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a NIV

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*
Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

Luke 1:39-55 NIV

TH #497

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

⁴⁶ And Mary said:
"My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

- * *Meditation Hymn* **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**
Mt Hope VH #95 Greenfield CH #251 Grace VH #95

Today's Message / Grace UCC Children's Christmas Pageant
“Sing a Song of Christmas – 2021”

- * *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

Emmanuel: God *with us*...

God, take these gifts and with *us* create a new world:

Where we allow the “them” to become the “us”

The “those” to become the “us”

The “really?” to become the “really us!”

We are one body and always must be. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*”

Mt Hope PH #125

Greenfield CH #273

Grace TH #116

* *Benediction*

Enwombed one! Dependent one!

Triumphant one! Mighty one!

Toppling-expectations-one!

Send us forth in love

to bear your hope, peace, joy and justice into the world.

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*