



December 8, 2024
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Advent Meditation

When Jesus walked among humankind, there was a certain simplicity to being a disciple. Primarily it meant to go with him, in an attitude of study, obedience, and imitation.

Dallas Willard
The Spirit of the Disciplines (1988)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
Second Sunday of Advent / Praying with Joy

December 8, 2024
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Underneath life's expanding shadows,

We call out "Pave the way for our God!"

On the dusty roads of life's wilderness

We call out "Pave the way for our God!"

As we near the top of mountains, rejoicing under the sunlight,

We call out "Pave the way for our God!"

Advent Candle Lighting Litany

Advent Scripture

Malachi 3:1-4 NRSV

The Coming Messenger

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Advent Reading

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation.

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*Lighting the **First** Candle*

** Advent Candle Lighting Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

Mt Hope VH #93

Greenfield CH #245

Grace VH #93

** Advent Prayer*

Refining God,

You send Your messenger to prepare the way, calling us to righteousness and peace. As we light the candle of peace, we open our hearts to Your refining work. Purify us, Lord, that our lives may reflect Your love and justice. Help us to make peace in our hearts, homes, and communities, living as faithful servants of Your coming kingdom. With expectant hearts, we await the fullness of Your salvation. Amen.

** Advent Blessing*

Go forth, shining with the light of Christ, and share His peace in your families, communities, and beyond, as you prepare the way for His coming. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Mt Hope **Insert**

Greenfield CH #244

Grace TH #89

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of Blissful Serenity,

As you move about your Realm on Earth, you desire our prayers to come alive. Knowing the hopes of our hearts, you call us to create action that will help our neighbors.

Yet, there are times we continue to pray in mind only, never fulfilling our calling to care for our neighbors. What we forget is that joy abounds when we can transform a prayer from thoughts to concrete actions, blessing our siblings across our world. Amen.

Words of Grace

When we bring alive our prayers, we experience Christ in our midst. May we embrace the grace of God and initiate opportunities to care for God’s children with open hearts.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 1:68-79 NRSV

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

TH #497

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his child David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹ to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“*More Love to Thee*”

Mt Hope PH #400

Greenfield CH #634

Grace TH #471

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

God of All Joy,

We give thanks each time we remember your gifts in our lives. Our gratitude extends to the ways we can use our gifts of time, talent, and treasures. May your boundless wisdom compel us to use our energies in ways that will share the most love in our world. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Mt Hope PH #117 *Greenfield* CH #259 *Grace* TH #104

* *Benediction*

May the Spirit of Light,

The Christ of Love,

And the God of Joy

Infuse our souls with peace and a song of thanksgiving

As we seek the presence of God in our world.

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Praying With Joy: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent Year C was written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois.