



*February 7, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Meditation*

Don't let worry get you down! Remember, Moses started out as a basket case!

- **Unknown**

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Joint Virtual Service (Recorded at Grace)  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 7, 2021**

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

**\* Call to Worship**

Good people of the church,  
Lift up your eyes and see.

**Have you not seen?**

**Have you not heard?**

**Our God greets us here.**

Good servants of the Most High,  
Open your ears to hear.

**Have you not seen?**

**Have you not heard?**

**Our God meets us here.**

Good children of the light  
Open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

**For we have seen, heard and known**

**From the beginning to the end,**

**Our God...is.**

**\* Opening Hymn      “Where Cross the Crowded Ways”**

*Mt Hope PH #423*

*Grace TH #394*

***Gathering Prayer***

Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some. We call on you, you who greet us here. We give you thanks for making it possible to gather, and to ponder your eternal mysteries. Make us, creatures of this time and space, ready collaborators with your endless grace. **Amen.**

## *Psalm Reading*

147:1-11, 20c NIV

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

<sup>2</sup> The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD sustains the humble  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;  
make music to our God on the harp.

<sup>8</sup> He covers the sky with clouds;  
he supplies the earth with rain  
and makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they call.

<sup>10</sup> His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

<sup>11</sup> the LORD delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

<sup>20c</sup> Praise the LORD.

## *Prayer of Confession*

What do we hold and treasure most?

**Is it the promises of God?**

What captivates our attention?

**Is it the grace of God?**

God of mercy and grace:

**We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable.**

**We are broken people**

**who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness.**

Heal us, O God, to make us better healers.

Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders.

Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression.

We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.

### *Words of Assurance*

Have you known? Have you heard?

Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings

Strengthening us so that we won't be weary.

The burden of sin is but a far and distant memory

For, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven.

**God is great in strength, mighty in power, and  
full of endless love for us all.**

### *Epistle Lesson*

### **1 Corinthians 9:16-23 NIV**

<sup>16</sup> For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup> If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. <sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

#### *Paul's Use of His Freedom*

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 1:29-38 NIV

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

TH #497

*Jesus Heals Many*

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

*Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place*

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

*"Be Still, My Soul"*

*Mt Hope PH #77*

*Greenfield CH #712*

*Grace TH #87*

*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*            *"I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"*  
*Mt Hope VH #60            Greenfield CH #499            Grace VH #60*

### \* *Benediction*

May God bless and keep you  
May God's face shine through yours.  
And may the glorious, Triune God  
Protect and keep you  
All the days long.

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*