

1 Corinthians 3:9



**For we are co-workers
in God's service;
you are God's field,
God's building.**

February 12, 2023

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor

Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Pianist

Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

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Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Morning Meditation

No sin, no matter how momentarily pleasurable, comforting, or habitual, is worth missing what God has for us.

– Beth Moore
Believing God (2004)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
6th Sunday after Epiphany / “*Be Reconciled*”

February 12, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

God gives us the choice to follow and to be faithful.

Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

God offers fire to warm us and water to quench our thirst.

Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

God considers us with care and knows our ways.

* *Invocation*

Righteous God. in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care, redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us, and you recognize your people as we are—fully human and made in your image. You come to us, and we come to you. Let us meet in this time and place. Let us bring our hope and our fears, our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments—the fullness of this glorious and maddening life toward you, assured that you meet us here. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* “*The Church’s One Foundation*”

Mt Hope VH #161

Greenfield CH #401

Grace VH #161

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy God, your fire warms our hearts when they grow cold to the pain of the world, shines brightly to illuminate the shadows where we hide from you, and provides fuel to energize us when we grow weary of the work. Revive us again, O God, revive us. Amen.

Words of Grace

God with Us knows the feeling of fatigue, the despair of doing hard things, and the frustration of a world that has turned from the Holy One. God is faithful to refresh us, renew us, and revive us. Amen.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 NIV

The Church and Its Leaders

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. **2** I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. **3** You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? **4** For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. **6** I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. **7** So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. **8** The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. **9** For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 5:21-37 NIV

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

TH #497

Murder

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ **22** But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

Adultery

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

³¹ “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Oaths

³³ “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷ All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* “Near to the Heart of God”

Mt Hope VH #216

Greenfield CH #617

Grace VH #216

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 who gives the increase, receive these gifts and magnify them for your kingdom. Continually grow generosity in us and be glorified. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

Mt Hope VH #86

Greenfield CH #295

Grace VH #86

* *Benediction*

May you move forward from this gathering with the good news written on your heart, faithfulness embedded in your spirit, and God’s wisdom leading your path. In righteousness, grace, and hope, be reconciled. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Be Reconciled: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.