



February 20, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
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Epiphany Season Thought

Beware of the frivolous life. These joys soon disappear.
Following Christ may not always be easy, but the rewards are enduring.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
7th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 20, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Where do we find you, Holy One, and how do we follow?

Find me at your table,

We'll share your food

Find me in your resources,

We'll share your riches

Find me in your power,

We'll share your mercy

Find me in your pain,

We'll share your forgiveness

Find me in your generosity,

We'll share all, and expect nothing in return

In community, seek my holiness,

We follow you in love, generosity, joy

In the world, share my desire:

We follow you in justice, mercy, peace for all.

* *Prayer of Invocation*

Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all. Open our hearts to recognize you.

Free us to trust your call and follow; Enable us to repent, and forgive, and join in your work to make "all things new". In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

* *Opening Hymn* *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

Mt Hope PH #15

Greenfield CH #210

Grace TH #8

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, your call is **deceptively** simple:
“Do to others as you would have them do to you”
And yet we cling to self-serving ways
which separate us from your beloved creation:

You call us to turn our lives around,
to risk repentance and learn forgiveness,
to work with patience and diligence to prepare for your Reign,
but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

Lord, Have mercy.

You call us to be full of joyful confidence
to create community where all have enough for abundant life,
but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

Christ, have mercy.

You call us to speak out in the presence of injustice,
but too often we do not challenge words and actions rooted in hate:

Holy One, have mercy

Assurance of Pardon

Our God is good, and generous, and loving:
Trust in Jesus’ promise:
“Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Psalms Reading

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40 NIV

- ¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
- ² for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
- ³ Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
- ⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:

⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.

⁷ Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;

do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 6:27-38 NIV

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

TH #497

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and

lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

Mt Hope PH #341

Greenfield CH #639

Grace TH #226

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

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God. Let us give you
honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. And
let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

* *Closing Hymn*

“Blessed Assurance”

Mt Hope VH #200

Greenfield CH #572

Grace VH #200

* *Benediction*

Send us into the world, O Holy One,
Ready to witness to your generosity and forgiveness
Ready to be recognized as those who follow your Way
Ready to shape a world of justice, peace and joy.

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*