



February 22, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

“Lent is a time to let go of what we cling to and open our hands to receive what God wants to give.”

- Henri Nouwen

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
1st Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

When we confess our transgressions, Christ's grace and forgiveness encompass us.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

Open yourselves to the teachings and wisdom of the Spirit.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

* *Invocation*

Gracious and Loving God, we seek the freedom found in the grace we receive through Christ Jesus. We seek to know more fully your great love. Turn us from our temptations. Inspire us to open ourselves to the way of Christ, that as we examine our lives and live out these days, we may become examples of your abundant love for all people. May your Divine Spirit tend us as angels attended Jesus in the wilderness, and may we feel revived and sustained to follow Jesus. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

Mt Hope Insert

"Seek Ye First"

Greenfield CH #713

Grace Insert

Prayer for Confession

Just as Jesus faced temptations in the wilderness, we too struggle with desires for power, glory, or riches. Teach us to turn toward the power of scripture and prayer. Center us in our faith. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 32 NRSV

The Joy of Forgiveness

- ¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*
- ⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
- ⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 4:1-11 NRSV

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

TH #497

The Testing of Jesus

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

** Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

** Meditation Hymn "Forty Days and Forty Nights"*

Mt Hope PH #148

Greenfield NCH #205

Grace TH #143

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

We offer ourselves to you, Lord Jesus, emptying ourselves to become your vessels of love and grace and hope to all we encounter. May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service, create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* **“God Will Take Care of You”**

Mt Hope VH #281

Greenfield CH #692

Grace VH #281

* *Benediction*

And so now go – knowing that God’s steadfast love surrounds you, knowing that Christ leads through your temptations, knowing that the Holy Spirit tends you with care. Go in peace. Stay in Courage. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

First Sunday in Lent by Karen Clark Ristine: The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026