



February 23, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

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Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Meditation

"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ"

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

February 23, 2025
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

There is a good word for you if you are weary.

It is the Word of Love, deeper than every despair.

There is a good word if you have ever felt unworthy.

It is the Word of Hope, “Do not be afraid!”

There is a good word that needs to be heard.

It is the Word of Life, that raises up abundant blessings.

* *Invocation*

Loving God, draw us once more into the embrace of Your unfailing love. Disrupt the weight of our worries with the gift of Your renewing grace. Search the depths of our hearts and reveal the abundance of Your presence. Awaken us to the possibilities You unfold when we dare to say yes to Your call. Grant us the courage to trust Christ’s command to cast out into the deep, even when it defies our understanding. Meet our trust with Your promised presence, lifting us into new beginnings. As we gather in the name of Jesus, bless us with hearts open to Your ever-renewing grace.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

Mt Hope PH #341

Greenfield CH #639

Grace TH #226

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One, it is easy to grow weary when our efforts seem to bear little fruit. The weight of discouragement can make the night feel endless. Yet, You call us to venture into the deep, to confront our emptiness with faith. Sometimes, our struggles are of our own making; other times, they come from burdens beyond our control, leaving us gasping for air. So, we surrender it all to You. We trust in Your unfailing forgiveness, knowing that Your grace lifts us up and renews us for the work You have set before us. May we step forward in hope, ready to receive and share the abundance You provide. We pray this in the name of the One You raised to life, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends, hear the words of Jesus, “Do not be afraid!” There is nothing in our past that matters more than what God can do, beginning now. We are forgiven by the one who has endured the depths of death and has risen to ever-new life. Not only are we forgiven, but we are also sent to fish for others, whom God also yearns to gather with the net of holy love. This is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

Psalm Reading

Psalm 138 NRSV

Thanksgiving and Praise

- ¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
- ² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
- ³ On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.
- ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 5:1-11 NRSV

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

TH #497

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Jesus Calls Us”

Mt Hope VH #386

Greenfield CH #592

Grace VH #386

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 the bursting nets, we thank you for your abundant blessings rising up at every turn. Multiply these gifts and our faith that your good news of life-giving love may stretch wider still. Yes, form us deep in Your heart for this good and gracious work. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Lord, Speak to Me”

Mt Hope VH #215

Greenfield CH #667

Grace VH #215

* *Benediction*

May the blessing of the Holy One who has plumbed every depth, continually raise you up. May God’s ridiculous abundance stretch wide your heart. And may God gift you with a boldness to bless others, awakening them to their beloved identity.
Amen and Amen!

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Into the deep: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Year C was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.