

A close-up photograph of several pink flowers with yellow centers, set against a soft, out-of-focus green background. The flowers are the central visual element of the top section of the page.

*The prayers you've prayed,
the sacrifices you've made,
the love you've given...
these are precious gifts to God.*

*Thanking God for the blessing
you are to your family!*

Happy Mother's Day

From Wendy & The Greenfield Charge UCC

*May 10, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

www.greenfieldcharge.org, God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker
Mrs. Wendy Farber

Sunday Morning Prayer

Dear Lord, as we try and navigate this crazy world that we live in and find ways to handle all that has been thrust upon us, we turn to you Lord to seek answers. We pray that you send us a sign as to what your purpose of all of this is. Our prays to all those that have lost loved ones and cannot have closure, please wrap their loved ones in your loving embrace. AMEN.

Call to Worship

Jesus said, I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again.

**We gather in this place
to know your presence and your love,
now and always.**

Jesus said, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

If you know me, you know God.

**We pray to know you more deeply,
that we may know God more intimately,
now and always.**

Jesus said, Ask me for anything, and I will do it.

**Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ,
that we may fulfill your will,
now and always.**

Jesus said, Believe in me, and Follow me.

**Help us to worship you fully
– believing and following –
now and always!**

Opening Hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g10AJN3KHns>

Gathering Prayer

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God,
we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.
You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking,
but with the milk of your truth
you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.
You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever
faith leads us.
You fill us with strength and hope,
and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.
You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to
come.
Meet us here, we pray,
that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing
and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Ever-gracious God,
from generation to generation you call forth faithful women and
men to be willing servants of truth.
You fill us with strength and hope,
Yet we find it is often not enough.

We pray both for great faith and for easy lives,
But we know these things seldom exist together.

We pray only to avoid the time of trial
**When we need also to pray for strength and confidence
to face the challenges that come with faithfulness.**

Forgive us, God, for our limited vision and our feeble trust.

Make us strong like Stephen,
so that we may rejoice in your unending grace
even in the times of deepest suffering.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
but share instead in Stephen's vision of the heavens opened
and Christ standing at the right hand of God.

This glorious vision of hope is for all of us,
for we are forgiven of all that separates us from the Holy One.
**Blessed be God, the giver of life,
and blessed be God's people,
who rejoice in Christ,
the way, the truth and the life.**

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60 NIV

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 NIV

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.

³ Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

⁴ Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.

15 My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,
from those who pursue me.

16 Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10 NIV

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”^[b]

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[c]

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”^[d]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of

God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Meditation Hymn

“Be Not Afraid”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCqfzUWJKLw>

The Reading of the Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14 NIV

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

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know^[b] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do

whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gloria Patri

Children's Message

See the Children's Bulletin titled '*Jesus, the Way to the Father*'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6XwzsE9lZg>

Today's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvOuU7HURCA>

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”

Closing Hymn “God Will Take Care of You”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FE0zOHWixz8>

Benediction

Once you were not a people,
but now you are a people bound together in God’s mercy
and united in Christ’s service.

Depart from this place in peace and confidence,
to love and serve in the name of Jesus the Christ,
the living representation of God

– our way, our truth, our life. **Amen.**

Three-Fold Amen

Greenfield Charge Prayer List

Roger C

Joel C

Ellen P

Our HealthCare Workers

Now and Always: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dille, Minister and Team Leader for MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization), UCC



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