



*May 24, 2020*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

[www.greenfieldcharge.org](http://www.greenfieldcharge.org), God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker  
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**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ**  
**Services Canceled**  
**Online Only**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**May 24, 2020**

*Sunday Morning Prayer*

*(Ephesians 1:17-19a)*

*God of our Lord Jesus the Anointed, Father of Glory: I call out to You on behalf of Your people. Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You. Open the eyes of their hearts, and let the light of Your truth flood in. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance. Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power. Amen and Amen.*

*Call to Worship*

*(based on Ps 68)*

We shout for joy  
to God who rides upon the clouds!  
**We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,  
before whom the earth quakes,  
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

God is Sovereign over the earth,  
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;  
God creates families for those who are alone.  
**God leads captives to freedom  
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

God goes forth before the people,  
marching through the wilderness of their lives,  
bringing forth restoration and justice.  
**Sing praise to God,  
Rider of the ancient skies,  
who dwells in holiness.**

Proclaim the power of God!  
**O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!  
You give power and strength to your people.**

Let us worship God!

## *Opening Hymn*

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TJpr-fXT34>

## *Gathering Prayer*

God Most High, we gather to honor and glorify you.  
Receive our invitation to dwell with us.  
Enfold us in your presence and  
fill us again with holy awe and mystery.  
We are yours and we claim you as our God. **Amen.**

## *Prayer of Confession*

Blessed One, you created human beings  
for your glory and pleasure.  
Forgive us for being self-absorbed and  
choosing to live solely for ourselves.  
Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your Spirit,  
your purpose for our lives, and for placing our will above yours.  
Grant us courage to share in Christ’s sufferings, to be his  
witnesses, and to carry your loving compassion to a hurting world.  
**Amen.**

## *Words of Assurance*

As the Body of Christ,  
we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Christ’s witnesses.  
Each of us has our own story of what Jesus’ life means for us.  
Through our life-stories we can convey hope to the hopeless,  
joy to the downtrodden, and peace where there is turmoil.  
Therefore, let us “clothe ourselves in humility,”  
sharing the Good News of Christ, that we “may all be one.”  
In this God is well pleased.

## *First Reading*

**Acts 1:1-11 NIV**

### *Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven*

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had

chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

### *Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 47 NIV**

*For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you nations;  
shout to God with cries of joy.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is awesome,  
the great King over all the earth.

<sup>3</sup> He subdued nations under us,  
peoples under our feet.

<sup>4</sup> He chose our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

<sup>5</sup> God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

- <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to him a psalm of praise.
- <sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations;  
God is seated on his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The nobles of the nations assemble  
as the people of the God of Abraham,  
for the kings of the earth belong to God;  
he is greatly exalted.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qgiJCD6pjA>

*The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Luke 24:44-53 NIV**

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

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

*The Ascension of Jesus*

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

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 Prays*'

## *Today's Message*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HENz1fIXaKA&t=17s>

## *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*

*"Do Lord"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUuibuzwB8E>

## *Benediction*

Continue to be faithful, remain committed, be witnesses for Christ.  
For the God of all grace has called you to eternal glory  
through Jesus Christ,  
and will fulfill, restore, strengthen, and establish you  
through suffering and struggle.  
Go forth from this place, empowered by Christ's love,  
with Christ's name on your lips,  
the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,  
God's love in your hearts,  
God's beloved ones always in your sight, and  
God's still speaking voice in your ear.       **Amen.**

## *Three-Fold Amen*



## *Greenfield Charge Prayer List*

*Roger C*

*Ellen P*

*Our HealthCare Workers*