



*March 14, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

[www.greenfieldcharge.org](http://www.greenfieldcharge.org)  
[greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com](mailto:greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com)

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor  
Mrs. Wendy Farber

Pianist  
Sylvia Olewinski (MHT)

[farberhome@atlanticbb.net](mailto:farberhome@atlanticbb.net)

*Sunday Meditation*

Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation.

**Catherine Doherty**

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

*The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

\* Doxology

\* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**O Generous One, we give thanks to you for your steadfast love endures forever. May these gifts be used to feed the hunger and satisfy the thirst of all those you love throughout your creation. Amen.**

\* *Call to Worship*

Beloved in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?

**We come to celebrate the love of God in the form of Jesus Christ.**

This love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us. Our challenge is to trust the light of God's love in the midst of our struggles.

**We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.**

If only we will trust, Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.

**We come to celebrate our God who loved and loves us so much!**

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

*Mt Hope VH #236*

*Greenfield CH #688*

*Grace VH #236*

## *Gathering Prayer*

God of immeasurable grace, you meet us in our time of need and cause your face to shine upon us. You sent your Son into the world, that we might be saved; and you fashioned us into vessels of you love and light. Redeem us this day, O God, that we may be found worthy of the one who came to bring us life. Amen.

## *Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 NIV (MH pg. 957)**

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
- <sup>3</sup> those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.
- <sup>17</sup> Some became fools through their rebellious ways  
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
- <sup>18</sup> They loathed all food  
and drew near the gates of death.
- <sup>19</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress.
- <sup>20</sup> He sent out his word and healed them;  
he rescued them from the grave.
- <sup>21</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
- <sup>22</sup> Let them sacrifice thank offerings  
and tell of his works with songs of joy.

## *Prayer of Reconciliation*

O God of Comfort and God of Challenge,  
we come to you this morning the way the Israelites did,  
full of complaints and dissatisfaction.  
Nothing is enough;  
we do not recognize your blessing at work in our day to day lives.

**Forgive us.**

In our complaints, challenge us as you did the Israelites,  
to consider the bigger picture  
of oppression, injustice, and inequality around us.

**Forgive us when we close our eyes**

**for fear of what you might show us;**

**Lift up loving and compassionate leaders**

**to open our eyes until we see what you see in our world.**

## *Words of Assurance*

You are blessed because God's image resides deep within each of you. So, return God's blessing by the way you love others.

## *Epistle Lesson*

**Ephesians 2:1-10 NIV (MH pg. 1853)**

### *Made Alive in Christ*

<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*      **John 3:14-21 NIV (MH pg. 1687)**

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

**TH #497**

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*      **“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

*Mt Hope* VH #363

*Greenfield* CH #320

*Grace* VH #363

vs 1,3,4

*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

*\* Closing Hymn*      **"Rock of Ages"**  
*Mt Hope VH #275*      *Greenfield CH #342*      *Grace VH #275*  
vs 1,3,4      vs 1,3,4

*\* Benediction*

Let us rejoice: God so loves the world! May God your Maker send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed. May Christ the Light illuminate your fearful moments. And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love guide you until we worship together again.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

*\* Three-Fold Amen*      TH # 558

*\* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

*\* Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*