

Oh Jerusalem !

How often would I have gathered your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings



And you would not

Luke 13:34

March 16, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Lent Meditation

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time – a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

Adrienne Cook

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
2nd Sunday in Lent / *Warning*

March 16, 2025
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

** Call to Worship*

When the world around me is disturbing, where do I turn?

A psalmist says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

When I am afraid, what can I count on?

“The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.”

We gather in the light of God’s protection.

We come to pray, praise and sing.

All: Let us worship God together!

** Invocation*

Gracious God, prepare us to receive you. May our eyes behold you in those around us. May our ears receive your word. May our hearts be open to your teaching and leading. In this precious moment, may we know you in new ways.

** Opening Hymn*

“Softly and Tenderly”

Mt Hope VH #420

Greenfield CH #479

Grace VH #420

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving Protector, in times of chaos, we can be startled by sudden declarations, distracted by claims of solutions to problems. Forgive us, God, for our wandering from you.

Forgive us when our own fears draw other people’s attention away from you. Help us to act, not from anxiety, but from faith in your certain presence. Help us to slow down and recognize you within and around us. Amen.

Words of Grace

No matter how far from God our resistance takes us, God wishes to draw us back, as deliberately as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Receive God's embrace and this good news: you are forgiven.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 NRSV

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 13:31-35 NRSV

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

TH #497

The Lament over Jerusalem

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

** Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

** Meditation Hymn "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"*

Mt Hope PH #83

Greenfield NCH #410

Grace TH #300

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

Dear God, use our offerings of our resources and of our lives.

Bless them, multiply them for your purposes in the world.

Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Mt Hope PH #210

Greenfield CH #710

Grace TH #316

* *Benediction*

Friends, nourished by your presence here, go boldly in the way of Jesus. Receive the blessings of God, and be sustained by the Holy Spirit, today and always. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Service Prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.