

Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9



March 20, 2022

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Lenten Meditation

Lent reminds us that the gifts God has given us in baptism; need to be renewed every year in the celebration of the Resurrection.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
3rd Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Come, everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters. Come to the wells.

Our souls thirst for you, O God.

We lift up our hands and call on your name

Come, without money. Come without cost.
Incline your ears and listen for good news.

Our flesh faints for you, O God.

Our lips sing praises, beholding your glory.

Come, eat good. Come, feast upon true riches.
Be filled with that which sustains you.

Our souls are satisfied in you, O God.

In the shadow of your wings, we sing with joy.

* *Invocation*

Author of abundance, God of change, we come into this hour with holy expectations. As we travel on our journey of transformation this Lenten season, we know that you are with us. You walk beside us. Your presence surrounds us. Help us to bear fruit as we walk this road. Remind us that you will never leave us nor forsakes us, that your rod and your staff comfort us, that you have prepared a feast for us when all can come and eat. Keep us forever in the path as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* **“Give of Your Best to the Master”**

Mt Hope VH #322

Greenfield FHP #348

Grace VH #322

Call to Confession

God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be. Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence, so that may prepare our hearts for change.

Moment of silence

All: We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from seeing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit in a world full of spoiled and rotten produce, and systems designed to kill. We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.

Assurance of Grace

God's grace and mercy abounds.
God is with us in the change.
God's everlasting arms embrace us.
Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.
Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9 NIV

Invitation to the Thirsty

¹ “Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
² Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
³ Give ear and come to me;

listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.
⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.
⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to you,
because of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”
⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.
⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 13:1-9 NIV

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

TH #497

Repent or Perish

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For

three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?"

⁸“Sir,” the man replied, “leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.””

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*”

Mt Hope VH #207

Greenfield CH #355

Grace VH #207

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

**For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this
community and for the ways it'll help us nurture caring
relationships with our neighbors, we dedicate these gifts.
Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be
good fruit in the world . Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn* “Amazing Grace”
Mt Hope VH #77 *Greenfield* CH #343 *Grace* VH #77

* *Benediction*

As we go forth to bear good fruit,
May God be with us in our hunger and thirst.
May our ears be ever inclined, listening for the good news.
May praises be on our lips even in the bleakest valley
And May the God of peace equip us with every good thing
to carry out God’s desire for the world.
Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*