



March 6, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

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Sunday Morning Meditation

‘Tis one thing to be tempted ... Another thing to fall.’

Shakespeare
Measure for Measure

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

March 6, 2022

Mt Hope 8:30am
1st Sunday in Lent

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

** Call to Worship*

We may be entering this season arid, dry from pain and injustices.

And yet, God is still hydrating our spirits.

We may be wandering, feeling as if we have no direction.

And yet, God is guiding us in the wilderness.

We may be fearful, wondering what comes next.

And yet, God is surrounding us with peace.

We may begin our Lenten journey spiritually arid, aimless, and anxious.

But the Spirit of Strength will never leave our side.

** Invocation*

Divine Sojourner,

As we saunter far into the wilderness, may your light sustain us.

May the questions that fill our minds with doubt drift away into the sands of the journey. May we dig within our souls to remove the prejudices deep within us. However, we wander in this season, may your Holy Glow refocus our attention on our relationship with you and the ways we connect with our siblings. Amen.

** Opening Hymn “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*

Mt Hope PH #461

Greenfield CH #797

Grace TH #434

Call to Reflection and Growth

God of the Road, we journey together into the wilderness again. In this time filled with new spiritual practices and studies, our minds will be ‘tested’. Doubts will creep in as we seek your presence. At times, we will slide away from our responsibilities to care for our neighbors.

‘Keep awake’, you call to us.

And so, we ask ourselves:

- *Will hurtful words from others taunt us, and inhibit our growth with you?*
- *Will negative images in our minds draw us away from our practices?*
- *Will we snooze to the needs of this world and ignore the pain in our communities?*

Deliver us from the temptations of this world and the tests that we impose upon ourselves. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

When we aimlessly wander throughout this Lenten journey, God follows us - even into the depths of the wilderness. May we see God’s presence, knowing we are never alone on arid days and in barren lands. Amen!

First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 NIV

Firstfruits and Tithes

When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ² take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³ and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. ⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. ⁷ Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. ⁸ So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land

flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰ and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. ¹¹ Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 4:1-13 NIV

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

TH #497

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*”
Mt Hope PH #153 Greenfield NCH #211 Grace TH #141

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

We share our gratitude for all of our fruits - from our possessions to knowledge and from our time to abilities.

May our ‘best’ be something that we do not hoard but that we freely give away. As we embrace this season of fasting and reflection, may we recognize the best of our talents, treasures, and time and share with God and neighbor.

Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

Mt Hope VH #86

Greenfield CH #295

Grace VH #86

* *Benediction*

As we wander on this journey,

May God the Divine Light open our souls to healing and wisdom.

May Christ the Sojourner lead us into oases of renewal in arid and barren times.

May the Spirit of Hope fill us with courage to carry on.

As Jesus embraced the struggles of the wilderness, may we find strength to abide in our wilderness of the soul. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*