



*March 9, 2025*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Lent Meditation*

"Everything else in life can wait, but the search for God cannot wait."

**George Harrison, Beatles**

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent / *Famished*

March 9, 2025  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*inspired by Psalm 91*

Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

**Let us worship God!**

Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

**Let us worship God!**

Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

**Let us worship God!**

Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

**Let us worship God together!**

\* *Invocation*

Whether we feel alone, or accompanied, God is with us. Let us open ourselves to recognize God's presence within us and among us. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

*Mt Hope VH #29*

*Greenfield CH #151*

*Grace VH #29*

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

**Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress, we fear**

**that we are all alone. We hunger for easy comfort, even**

**knowing that our appetite will return. We aim for power**

**over uncertainty, forgetting that control is an illusion.**

**Forgive us for choosing distraction to escape from chaos.**

**Bring our focus back to you, to your word, your presence,**

**and your child Jesus. Amen.**

## *Words of Grace*

God reaches out to us, eagerly drawing us close, forgiving our sins through God's unending grace. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

## *Psalm Reading*

## **Psalm 91 NIV (Adapted)**

**Sing to the Tune** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

- <sup>1</sup> Those who dwell within the shelter of the Most High who is God;  
They'll abide within the shadow of the true Almighty God.
- <sup>2</sup> I will say of Him, the Lord, "He is my refuge, whom I trust;  
He's my God, my strength and fortress, in Him I will put my trust."
- <sup>9</sup> The Most High – if He's your dwelling – if the Lord's your confidence,  
<sup>10</sup> Then no harm will come upon you, nor disaster near your tents.  
<sup>11</sup> For His angels will surround you, guard you in your ways alone.  
<sup>12</sup> They will lift you in their hands so that your foot won't strike a stone.
- <sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion, and the cobra without fear;  
you will trample the great lion, and the serpent who comes near.
- <sup>14</sup> The Lord says "Because he loves me, I will rescue him from shame;  
I'll protect him from all danger - he acknowledges my name.
- <sup>15</sup> "He will call to me – I'll answer; when he cries out, I will hear.  
I'll deliver him with honor; in his trouble I'll be near.
- <sup>16</sup> With long life I'll satisfy him, till the time his days will cease;  
I will show him my salvation – he will dwell within my peace."

## *Epistle Reading*

## **Romans 10:8b-13 NRSV**

<sup>8b</sup> "The word is near you,  
in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*  
*Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)*

Luke 4:1-13 NRSV

TH #497

*The Testing of Jesus*

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*      “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”  
Mt Hope PH #150      Greenfield Insert      Grace Insert

*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 these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish,  
spreading your love where it is most needed. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*    *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”*

*Mt Hope PH #153*

*Greenfield NCH #211*

*Grace TH #141*

\* *Benediction*

Friends, God knows your hungers, and wants to feed you. As you are fed, go into the world to share with others. May you trust that the blessings of God go with you this day and always. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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*Famished: Service Prayers for the first 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.