



*April 11, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Meditation*

“The wizard [of Oz] says look inside yourself and find self. God says look inside yourself and find [the Holy Spirit]. The first will get you to Kansas. The latter will get you to heaven. Take your pick.”

– Max Lucado,  
Experiencing the Heart of Jesus

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 11, 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

**Generous God, we offer you our gifts as best we can.**

**Although we don't share everything in common, as those first believers did, we are sharing these gifts, that they may be used for the common good. Bless these gifts with the power of your Holy Spirit. In your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

\* *Call to Worship*

Come, walk in the light.

**We walk together as children of light and love.**

Come, gather in the love of God.

**We gather together as children of light and love.**

Come, live in the unity of God's Holy Spirit.

**We live together as children of light and love.**

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"Blessed Assurance"*

*Mt Hope VH #200*

*Greenfield CH #572*

*Grace VH #200*

*Gathering Prayer*

Light of the world, shine upon us with your Holy Spirit. Gather in our midst, that we might know you are truly here. Guide us in unity and love, that we might be a blessing of unity and love for the world.

*The Believers Share Their Possessions*

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

*Prayer of Confession*

You know us so very well, Christ Jesus. You know our doubts and our questions, and you love us enough to welcome such doubts and questions. You know our fractures and divisions, and you love us enough to invite us to forgive one another and live-in unity. Thank you for loving us and for inviting us on the journey of love. Help us embrace this journey, that we walk in the light, and live in unity together. In your gracious love, we pray. Amen.

*Words of Assurance*

God is faithful in love and grace, making our confession welcome and cleansing for the soul. Rejoice! We are children of light. Even when we falter, God's love is strong enough to bring us back to the light of forgiveness and grace.

*Epistle Lesson*

**1 John 1:1 – 2:2 NIV**

*The Incarnation of the Word of Life*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We write this to make our joy complete.

### *Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness*

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**John 20:19-31 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

#### *Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

#### *Jesus Appears to Thomas*

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### *The Purpose of John's Gospel*

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*      "*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*"

*Mt Hope* VH #155

*Greenfield* CH #393

*Grace* VH #155

*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.**

