



April 4, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Easter Sunday Meditation

The Passion of Christ is the greatest and most overwhelming work of God's love.

Saint Paul of the Cross

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
Easter Sunday

April 4, 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

O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

* *Call to Worship*

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Hope is alive!

Hope is alive, indeed!

God's love is eternal!

Hallelujah!

Let us give thanks for what God has done.

* *Opening Hymn* *"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

Mt Hope VH #132

Greenfield CH #367

Grace VH #132

Gathering Prayer

God of grace and power, we come rejoicing in Christ's empty tomb. We come trusting in the good news that tells us Christ is with us. For the Risen Christ is living proof that You care about our lives, O God. The Risen Christ offers to us glimpses of hope, even in our tears. As the tomb is not quiet. It speaks. It proclaims! It is a promise of eternal life!

Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God of resurrection grace, help us in our pain, despair and fear so that we are not prone to follow the path of hopelessness. Help us, to instead, be like the Risen Christ, and rise up, as a brave and holy people, living beyond our pain, despair and fear by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love.

Help us, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God hears our prayers of grace and mercy, and raises our countenance from despair, into resurrection joy! God meets us in our human suffering, comforts us in our tears, and offers to us new hope,

Hallelujah!

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 20:1-18 NIV

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

TH #497

The Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #133

"Christ Arose"

Greenfield CH #357

Grace VH #133

Today's Message



Holy Communion

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

God of the Resurrection, this is the day of all days! Today, we celebrate the empty tomb. Death could not hold your son! You raised him! The hopes and dreams of your people are joyfully bursting forth in song.

We know and believe that because Jesus lives, we shall live.

Forever! We do not want our joy to ever fade! Cause the truth of the resurrection to transform us into bold witnesses for you. Enable us to make the most of the time that we have in order to reach every creature on earth with the good news of the kingdom.

We remember as Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover Feast in the Upper Room, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you."

After the meal, Jesus took the cup and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you. As often as you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

God of the Resurrection, send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, so that the bread we break may be for us - communion in the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we drink may be for us - communion in the blood of Christ; and that being built up in love, we may be strengthened in the unity of the faith and come to full maturity in Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together ...

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.

Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
We see him in his Glory! We see him in his Mercy! We see him in his Ministry to the world, a ministry to which he calls us to complete.

May his example inspire us; may his presence empower us until all the world knows that the victory has been won.

Worthy is the Lamb of God, the Lamb that was slain, to receive all power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor and glory and praise. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

Pew Communion

God of the Resurrection, we your faithful people remember what you have done and we give you our hearts. We are not worthy to stand before the Lamb who was slain for our sins, but in the power of the Risen Christ, we pray that we may become new creatures - living lives worthy of the Lamb's glory.

Blessed is the Lamb of God. Amen.

Prayer

O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life. Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy.

You commission us to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



* *Closing Hymn*

"He Lives"

Mt Hope VH #137

Greenfield CH #368

Grace VH #137

* *Benediction*

May God's abiding love and hope give us new life.

May God's unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled.

And may God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace.

For Christ is risen! Praise God!

Hallelujah!

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen!**

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*