

Blessed are they who  
have not seen and  
yet have believed

John 20:29



*April 16, 2023*

*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Pastor

Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Today's Services led by  
Church Members

Pianist

Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist

Gary McIntyre (Grace)

*Sunday Morning Meditation*

Be not dismayed, for Christ is alive, bringing hope and joy to our lives this day. Alleluia!

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ**

**April 16, 2023**

Mt Hope 8:30am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice.**

Do not worry or fear, for Christ is alive!

**In this place, we find hope and joy.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Let us worship the one who brings new life.**

\* *Invocation*

Life-giving God, we gather today to celebrate the resurrection of your Son. We are grateful for the new life he brings. We are grateful for the hope and joy he shares. We are grateful for leading the way, as he goes before us. Gracious God, today and every day, we offer you our thanks and praise. Strengthen our faith, that it may sustain us during difficult days and enable us to share your love with others. Open our hearts to new life and new possibilities. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

*“Thine Is the Glory”*

Mt Hope VH # 134

Greenfield NCH # 253

Grace VH # 134

*Prayer of Confession*

God of mercy and grace, you understand us completely.

**Yet times there are times when we do not understand this life of faith.**

We do not understand how Jesus rose from the dead.

**We do not understand how the resurrected Christ comes to us today.**

Moments of doubt and disbelief sap our strength.

## **Forgive and restore us.**

Help us trust you and your love for us.

**And help us trust the ways of Christ. Amen.**

### *Words of Assurance*

Jesus said to his disciples,

“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”

Beloved children of God, you are forgiven.

May this forgiveness bring peace to your souls, your minds, and your body. Amen.

### *New Testament Reading*

**Acts 2:14A, 22-32 NIV**

#### *Peter Addresses the Crowd*

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

<sup>22</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,<sup>[a]</sup> put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest in hope,

<sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
you will not let your holy one see decay.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him

on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

\* *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<sup>[a]</sup>), 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!”

29 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*

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe<sup>[b]</sup> 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*      “*Crown Him With Many Crowns* ”

*Mt Hope* VH # 7

*Greenfield* CH # 45

*Grace* VH # 7

*Today's Message*

Contributed by Charles Wall, Jr.

\* *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

**Holy One, we give you thanks and praise for your promise of  
new life. We thank you for these gifts. As we offer them into  
your hands, may they bring hope and new life to those in  
need. In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray.  
Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*    *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

*Mt Hope* PH # 8

*Greenfield* CH # 90

*Grace* TH # 21

\* *Benediction*

Members of the body of Christ, may the unconditional love of  
God, the deep peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be  
with you now and always. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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