



Easter Sunday
April 17, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Easter Sunday Thought

"The Cross that called Jesus to a sacrificial death, called and calls us, his church, to a sacrificial life."

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Wayne B. Keller
April 17, 2022

Mt Hope 8:30am
Easter Sunday

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

This is the day that God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We gather today to shout Alleluia!

Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

Out of the doom of death and despair,
Victory comes, glory appears.

We gather today to shout Alleluia!

Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

We shall live, witness, and recount the deeds
Of the God whose love endures forever.

We gather today to shout Alleluia!

Christ is risen; he is risen indeed.

* *Invocation*

O, Redeeming God,
Like Mary of Magdala weeping at the tomb,
We, too, have witnessed the wonders of your work
With our own teary eyes.
In this hour, O God,
Elevate us in Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit,
So that others may be awakened through our
Preaching and proclaiming the good news:
News of healing, peace, justice, and community for all people.
Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Mt Hope VH #132

Greenfield CH #367

Grace VH #132

Prayer of Confession

God, you call us to step out of the tombs that aim to consume us and more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence. In stillness and in silence, let us acknowledge the ways we have been separated from the richness of who you have called us to be.

Moment of silence

We admit that we have not always remembered the creative power of resurrection. In a world where dreams and joy have been entombed, and chaos is celebrated and normalized, we have not always considered the divine ingenuity at work that calls us toward the ways of peace, love, and hope. Although we may have strayed from the places where we meet you, we trust that not even death can separate us from you and the creative ways you show your love for us.

Assurance of Grace

We know that you can bring us back to life, O God—

That you will meet us in the shadows and remind us that there are no limits to this life.

With the fresh breath of the Holy Spirit, we are revived.

Amen.

* *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* "*The Day of Resurrection*"

Mt Hope PH #192

Greenfield NCH #245

Grace TH #165

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.

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.



The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be the resurrection we need to see in the world.

* *Closing Hymn*

“He Lives”

Mt Hope VH #137

Greenfield NCH #368

Grace VH #137

* *Benediction*

As we go forth, may you be reminded of the creative renewing energy of God. May you be witnesses of the wonders of God’s work in the world through Christ. May you be reminded of the possibilities of victory and glory amidst death and despair. And may God be gracious to you and give you peace. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*