



*April 24, 2022*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Sunday Morning Meditation*

Jesus Christ, the Risen One, by the power of the Holy Spirit is always on the move toward us, swallowing up darkness, doubt, and death; redeeming and restoring us in his everlasting peace.

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

April 24, 2022  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Coming on the clouds or walking on the roads,

**The Christ is in our midst.**

Inside of sanctuaries or outside of church buildings

**The Christ is in our midst**

In heaven's realm or the cyber universe

**The Christ is in our midst.**

\* *Invocation*

God of the visible and invisible,

We gaze upon roads ahead

Knowing that you are ahead of us.

We seek your presence when the fog is heavy

And our hearts are hurting.

In the moments of haze,

Clear the path before us.

In the moments of clarity,

Show your face to us.

Allow us to hear your voice in the depths of night

As we search for your presence and call. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*    **"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

*Mt Hope VH #8*

*Greenfield CH #43*

*Grace VH #8*

## *Prayer of Reflection and Growth*

Spirit of Serenity-

You tell us “peace be with you,” but we set that peace aside to live with drama and chaos. We are drawn to highly emotional situations instead of the peace that only comes from you. *How can we set aside turmoil to live within your realm of peace?*

**When we cannot sense your holy tranquility surrounding us, open our souls to your warm and calming presence. May we embrace your peace and scatter serenity into our world. Amen.**

## *Assurance of Grace*

The God who walks with us scatters the seeds of grace behind us and before us, allowing us to understand the future with healing and hope. Amen!

## *First Reading*

**Acts 5:27-32NIV**

<sup>27</sup> The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup> “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

John 20:19-31 NIV

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.**

\* *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 God, Holy Light. Even when our surroundings are murky, you shine around us. Even in the long nights of discernment and wonder, you make your presence known, calling us to use all of our gifts to enhance this world. May the gifts we share today and each day hereafter create a Church of grace and a community of love. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

**“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”**

*Mt Hope* VH #45

*Greenfield* CH #370

*Grace* VH #45

\* *Benediction*

No matter the brightness of the day

Or the clear skies of night,

Our God is moving with us,

The Christ is calling to us “Peace be with you,”

And the Holy Spirit is surrounding us.

May Divine Serenity be our companion as we build the realm of God on earth.

Amen!

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*