



May 2, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
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Pianist
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Sunday Meditation

“If a man could make a single rose, we would give him an empire;
yet flowers no less beautiful are scattered in profusion over the
world, and no one regards them.”

Martin Luther

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
5th Sunday of Easter/Blessing of the Fields

May 2, 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 the fruits of our time, talents and resources in celebration of all that we have been given.

Loving God, we give you thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on the fruits we have given back to help meet the needs of your beloved community. May the gifts nourish and strengthen the community to grow spiritually, emotionally, and physically. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

* *Call to Worship*

As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

We come with hope for renewal.

In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.

Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

* *Opening Hymn* *"O Word of God Incarnate"*

Mt Hope VH #163

Greenfield CH #414

Grace VH #163

Gathering Prayer

Cultivating God, we come as your children to grow and learn, because you are our divine vine grower. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily. As your branches, we ask you to nourish us for continued growth.

May you transform our hearts and minds as we hear your Word, sing your praises, and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.

May you help us to bear good fruit through the vine of Jesus Christ. In Whose name we pray, Amen.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 22:25-31 NIV

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you^[a] I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Prayer of Confession

O God, giver of life, we confess the times when we fail to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God, forgive us when we ignore or we fail to see our neighbors in need. Abiding God, also forgive us when we reject love from others, and shut down completely. As we confess the times when we did not tend to our own needs, and denied ourselves of your forgiveness and grace. In our failures, we have refused your invitation to grow closer to you.

In our confession, O God, we pray your abiding love be shown through the ways we love more fully. Amen.

Words of Assurance

O God, hear your beloved community as we repent and pray for your forgiveness. Give to us your grace and restore to us your love that is forgiven and fearless. God, we desire for your loving Spirit to renew and strengthen us daily. Amen.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 15:1-8 NIV

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

TH #497

The Vine and the Branches

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Blessing of the Fields

John 16:23b-24

Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

* *Blessing of the Fields Hymn* “*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*”

Mt Hope PH #460

Greenfield Insert

Grace TH #216

Blessing of the Fields Prayer

Lord, you make a pink flower from a gray seed, an ear from a kernel, a carrot from a seed the size of a pinhead, an oak tree from an acorn. You have programmed your soil to provide food for your plants, wooden trees to make apples, feathered hens to lay eggs, grass-eating cows to give milk. And you, Grand Creator, you have us take care of your grand creation.

In your love, Lord, send rain to water our crops and gardens. Let your sun shine on our fields so that seeds will produce abundantly, so that vines and stalks and trees will hang heavy with fruit and grain. And Lord, let your grace be rich to our cattle as it is to us; let it keep our hogs free of disease, our hens laying eggs, and our cows giving milk. May our animals be fertile; may our lambs and calves and pigs frolic in your green pastures; so that even in their play, we may see your grace.

Help us to live on your good earth even as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden - preserving and caring for the life and soil you bless; ever thankful that for our good, you gave your laws of nature and your law of love. Help us for our good and your glory to see those laws as you see them - as good and perfect, and pleasant to think about.

And Lord, teach us to share the abundance you have given us, never gloating in our excess, but always giving our first bushels to feed the hungry in your name. Enlighten our hearts, Lord, so that our thanks ever rise in a crescendo to your throne. Amen

* *Meditation Hymn* “Near to the Heart of God”

Mt Hope VH #216

Greenfield CH #617

Grace VH #216

Today's Message

