



Happy Mother's Day
May 9, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.

Author Unknown

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
6th Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day

May 9, 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

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts and on all of us
gathered here, that we may abide in your love and that
your love may abide in these gifts. In your loving name, we
pray. Amen.**

* *Call to Worship*

God speaks to the heart,

Offering compassion and hope.

God enlivens the mind,

Inviting curiosity and wonder.

God awakens all spirits,

Fostering sacred connection.

God nurtures our strength,

Creating unimagined possibilities.

God calls the whole world,

Inspiring extravagant love.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Mt Hope VH #28

Greenfield CH #139

Grace VH #28

Gathering Prayer

Creating Spirit, we join with the chorus of all of creation to celebrate your wonderous deeds. Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony, so that we may contribute to the world You are already creating. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.

Psalm Reading

98 NIV

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
⁹ let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Prayer of Confession

Unwavering God, we keep asking what is it that you most want us to do with our lives in hope you might tell us something easier. Instead, You offer the same answer every time: Love one another as I have loved you.

We confess that our love for others is not always what we hope it would be.

We are quick to judge and slow to offer grace.

We are swift to anger and resistant to make amends.

We are prone to suspicion and resistant to build trust.

We hear the greatest commandment, and if we are honest, we are filled with hesitation because it means we must change.

Unwavering God, in these moments of stillness, hear our struggles with the love you call us to practice...

Silent Reflection

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the good news. God's love is so extravagant and inclusive that it knows no bounds. It transcends borders and speaks a universal language. Abide in that love. Find joy in that love. Be renewed by that love. Replicate that love in the world. Amen.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 15:9-17 NIV

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

TH #497

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made

known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“In the Garden”

Mt Hope VH #228

Greenfield CH #635

Grace VH #228

Today's Message

* *Mother's Day Affirmation of Faith*

John Killinger's - *Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise*

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the loving God, who was born of the promise to a mother named Mary.

I believe in the love Mary gave her son, that caused her to follow him in his ministry and stand by his cross as he died.

I believe in the love of all mothers, and its importance in the lives of the children they bear. It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity.

I believe that this love, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next.

And I believe that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a mother who lets this greater love flow through her to her child, blessing the world with the tenderness of her touch and the tears of her joy.

* *Mother's Day Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #77
all

"Amazing Grace"

Greenfield CH #343
vs 1,2,4,5

Grace VH #77
all

Mother's Day Reading

Margaret Windemere

She always leaned to watch us, anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window, in the summer by the gate.
And although we mocked her tenderly, who had such foolish care,
The long way home seemed more safe because she waited there.
Her thoughts were all so full of us, she never could forget.
And so I think that where she is, she must be watching yet.
Waiting till we come to her, anxious if we are late.
Watching from heaven's window, leaning from heaven's gate.

A Mother's Day Prayer

Author Unknown

Prayed by Mothers & Women who nurture children:

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper - not a homemaker. If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness - not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys. Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart.

Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child. As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love ...

* *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

* *Closing Hymn* “How Great Thou Art”
Mt Hope VH #505 Greenfield CH #147 Grace VH #505

* *Benediction*

Friends, imagine what is possible.

Imagine what our community would feel like

**if our own hearts embraced the unconditional love God has
for us.**

Imagine what the nation would sound like

if our words echoed the inclusive love God has for us.

Imagine what the world would look like

if our actions reflected the unwavering love God has for us.

Go forth from this place, to transform possibility into reality and to
join alongside God in transforming the world through love.

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

* *Three-Fold Amen* TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*