



May 1, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning 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.”

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Martin Luther
May 1, 2022

Joint Service

Mt Hope 8:30am

3rd Sunday of Easter

Blessing of the Fields Sunday - "Rogation Sunday"

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Lift up your hearts to the risen Christ who sustains us!

For God cares for us through all the days of our lives.

Let us bow and be thankful for every living thing.

For God watches over our every heartbeat.

Sing joyful praises for God's loving kindness!

All - Blessed be the name of the Lord!

* *Invocation*

God our Creator, you have ordered seedtime, sunshine, rain and harvest. You have created the seed, soil, and water so there may be food for all your people. May we honor and care for these elements that sustain our earthly life. As the food nourishes our body may we be filled with praise and thanksgiving for our Creator.

* *Opening Hymn* "All Creatures of Our God and King" PH #64

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have created what we humans need to sustain our earthly lives. We confess that we have neglected to care for your creation. We have carelessly used the soil, air, and water. We have forgotten how to love. We have forsaken the needs of future generations. Our concern is for the immediate satisfaction of our own greedy interests. Forgive us and set us on a new path pleasing to you. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Through Jesus Christ, God knows us and accepts us as we are. God hears our prayers and forgives us all our sins. Walk forth renewed and refreshed on the pathway of life.

Litany of Praise/Psalm

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-13 NIV

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

O Creator God, you have fashioned a world of great beauty. We pray for the eyes to see the beautiful, from the flowers of the field to a loving human spirit. We pray for hearts to sense a harmony in all creation.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.

Indeed, our prayer is of praise to God for the gift of creation. We see by microscope the grand expanse of the universe. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Creator God, you have fashioned a world of great beauty, yet a world shared with each of us for only a time. We pray for that "right spirit within" that will allow us to see the beauty, to sense the great gift that we have in the world about us, and to care for it as stewards of the Heavenly King. Amen

** The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 4:26-32 NIV

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Sunday School Project

* *Meditation Hymn* “Morning Has Broken”

PH #38

Today's Message

* *Easter Proclamation*

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Easter comes to remind us that there is no grave deep enough, no seal imposing enough, no stone heavy enough, no evil strong enough to keep Christ in the grave! Because He lives, we too shall live!

* *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.

* *Blessing of the Fields* “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” PH #460

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.

Blessing of the Elements

Blessing of the Seed

God, you have given us these seeds

They have a past. They are the fruit of the past. They have a present. They are to be planted into your soil. They have a future. They are to bear fruit for the harvest. May the miracle of life within these seeds burst forth yielding a bountiful harvest. Bless these seeds and those who plant them.

Blessing of the Soil

God, you have created and given us this soil.

The soil serves as the medium for the seed to grow, it cleans water, it regulates climate, it provides warmth, nourishment and support so that new life may emerge. Bless this soil that it may feed and nourish the seed. Bless those who work this soil and harvest the produce.

Blessing of the Water

God, this water is your creation.

Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil and the seed. Bless the soil and the seed with gentle rain. Bless this water. Let it come as rain at the right time, in the proper amount so that the seed may flourish and grow. In your mercy send us favorable weather so that the harvest will be bountiful.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

May these gifts be used to bring life and love for this world that God so dearly loves. Amen.

* ***Closing Hymn*** ***“For the Beauty of the Earth”***

PH #66

* ***Benediction***

In the name of the Risen Christ, as long as Christ is in heaven, may you be filled with the great joy that comes from believing; and when Christ returns, may your joy be multiplied a thousandfold.

May God who gives breath and life to the sower,
Multiply the seed sown and increase its fruits.

And may God the Father, God the Risen Son and God the Holy Spirit be with you and among you and around you, now and forevermore.

Hallelujah! Amen.

* ***Three-Fold Amen***

TH # 558

* ***Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle***

Maypole Dance (weather and field conditions pending)