



*May 11, 2025*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Sunday Meditation*

A praying mother is one of heaven's most powerful warriors.

Anonymous

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am      Greenfield 9:50am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter / *The Works Testify*

May 11, 2025  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

*\* Call to Worship*

Transformative Creator, you envelop us with examples of  
community

**We are witness to Jesus' up close and personal attempts to  
learn about and be with the people**

You want us to know that what happens outside of our church  
building matters to God's people.

**Continue to work in and through us to build towards  
collective flourishing**

Call us into living—

**Call us into being curious, approachable, and loving towards  
all Your creation**

*\* Invocation*

Creator of the Collective, let us begin by sitting in silence so that  
we can feel the presence of You in one another.

*Silent Reflection*

Open up all our senses to be more available to the possibility of the  
Creator's reflection in one another and let us be ready to build up a  
world, one in which we become agents of change. Open our  
hearts, O God, and help us to feel the brokenness of your world so  
we can begin again. Amen.

*\* Opening Hymn*

***"The Old Rugged Cross"***

*Mt Hope VH #104*

*Greenfield CH #327*

*Grace VH #104*

## *Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

**Holy One, we ask ourselves: Who do we say that we are?**

**How do we show up against an oligarchy that allows discrimination, war, genocide, violence, transphobia, and poverty run rampant amongst God's people. When we experience tension, give us the courage to feel into that tension and to invite a feeling of love and kindness and grace the way that Your Son showed us time and time again. Be with us in this and all the hard moments still to come. Amen.**

## *Words of Grace*

Beloved, let us go forth today and all the days with the courageous belief that we can truly recognize the Holy One in the other and then act accordingly. By grace, Creator will move us towards the transformation where acts of love, humility, curiosity, faith, abundance, and hope are on display for all to witness.

## *First Reading*

**Acts 9:36-43 NRSV**

### *Peter in Lydda and Joppa*

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 10:22-30 NRSV

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

TH #497

*Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews*

<sup>22</sup> At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

*"Amazing Grace"*

*Mt Hope VH #77*

*Greenfield CH #343*

*Grace VH #77*

*Today's Message*

*A Mother's Day Litany*

from Amy Young adapted by Pastor Bree Truax

This is the day the Lord has made!

**We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

To those who are pregnant with new life,

**we anticipate with you and pray that God will knit together  
the child in your womb.**

To those who gave birth this year to their first child,

**we celebrate with you!**

To those who lost a child this year. To those who experienced loss  
this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or accidents,

**we mourn with you.**

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, hopes that are dashed and disappointment,

**we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.**

To those who are moms, foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms,

**thank you! We need you. We appreciate you!**

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother,

**we acknowledge your experience. We are sad with you. We hope for your healing.**

To those who are caring for their mothers in the midst of medical needs,

**God sustain you.**

To those whose mother died this year or in years past,

**we grieve with you. Peace to you.**

This Mother's Day, every day, we all walk together as the family of God. All are valued. All make a difference. For the mothers present and represented among us, we give extra thanksgiving today.

**For their love, encouragement and strength, we thank the Lord.**

Drawn together by the Spirit, we join with others as one family in worship, in prayer, in praise, in company. We come to worship God and to grow in faith together.

**Let us love one another as God first loved us.**

### *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*

**Collective Creator we thank you for the gifts of the people – from our ancestors to our elders to those who have still yet to come, we share what we have so that all can flourish and follow you. Amen.**

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

### *\* Benediction*

Blessed people, go forth this week knowing that we are in this world together and that collective flourishing is possible. It begins with listening and paying attention to all that is around you and then inviting others to come alongside – so do just that, slow down and marvel at God’s creation.

*\* Three-Fold Amen*      TH # 558

### *\* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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*The Works Testify: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter was written by (Rev. Ellie Hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.*