



*May 12, 2024*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Centering Words*

Why stare at the heavens to find God? Look within, for God's Spirit is there. Look around, Christ's disciples are all around.

**Acts 1, Luke 24, John 17**

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

May 12, 2024

Mt Hope 8:30am

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/Ascension of the Lord (Observed)/Mother's Day

'Waiting for the Feast Lenten Series: Fulfilled'

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Let us praise God for sending Jesus Christ to offer his saving love to us all.

**We give God all our praises.**

Let our hearts be filled with joyful celebration for the fulfillment of God's promises.

**We open our hearts to receive the joy of Christ.**

Let us move forward with Jesus Christ as our guiding light.

**The light of Jesus Christ is shining in each of us.**

Come, let us worship our Risen Christ, whose love and light guide us still.

\* *Invocation*

Ever present God, we are grateful that you meet us right where we are. Speaking our language and giving us the blessed assurance that you are with us. We look forward to the glory that awaits us, trusting that Christ will guide us to our heavenly home. In his name, we pray. Amen.

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

*Mt Hope VH #8*

*Greenfield CH #43*

*Grace VH #8*

## *Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

**Life-giving God, we find joy in your newness of life through Jesus Christ. Help us to feel the joy of inhaling and exhaling the breath of life in every season. Transform us when we come together as your beloved and diverse creation. Guide us in our praise as we seek your saving love toward a world where there is peace and justice for all. Amen.**

## *Words of Grace*

Loving God, in Christ we see the fulfillment of your promise to be with us always. Forgive us when we lose faith in your compassion for all creation. Help us to see the great sacrifice of the Risen Christ as an example of your undying love for us all. Strengthen us to do better and to become better together in our relationship with you and all of creation. Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.

## *Psalm Reading*

## **Psalm 47 NRSV**

- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- <sup>2</sup> For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us  
and nations under our feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.
- <sup>8</sup> God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 24:44-53 NRSV

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

TH #497

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

*The Ascension of Jesus*

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

*Mt Hope PH #8*

*Greenfield CH #90*

*Grace TH #21*

*Today's Message*

*Mother's Day Reading*      '*God's Helpers*' by George W. Wiseman

"God could not be in every place  
With loving hands to help erase  
The teardrops from each baby's face,  
And so He thought of mother.  
He could not send us here alone  
And leave us to a fate unknown;  
Without providing for His own,  
The outstretched arms of mother...."

\* *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

**Faithful God, we thank you for every gift. We delight in returning a portion of what we have been given back to Christ's church. Your generous love and care for all creation knows no bounds. Like Christ who offered himself, let these offerings symbolize the fulfillment of your love by bringing a healing balm of hope, peace, and justice to everyone, everywhere. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

*"The Solid Rock"*

*Mt Hope VH #232*

*Greenfield CH #526*

*Grace VH #232*

\* *Benediction*

Go, now in peace. May the love of God surround you, everywhere you may go. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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*Fulfilled: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday of Easter was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ.*