



May 15, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

The most thrilling thing about heaven is that Jesus Christ will be there. I will see Him face to face. Jesus Christ will meet us at the end of life's journey.

Author: Billy Graham

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

May 15, 2022

Mt Hope 8:30am
5th Sunday of Easter

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

(Inspired by Psalm 148)

Celebrate our God, from the plains to the mountains!

Celebrate our God, from the waters and hills.

Sing to our God who designed creation.

Fill the air with song to the One who painted the world with love.

Let us praise our God, the author of grace.

Let us worship our God, the composer of joy.

* *Invocation*

Spirit of Joy-

Basking in your presence, we dance in the knowledge that your

presence dwells with us. We celebrate your name, your grace,

your love in this space with our siblings. We proclaim our

excitement that we, together, can glorify your name through

sharing your love. May this minute be the start of a new chapter of

our love for you and our love for our neighbors. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* *“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”*

Mt Hope VH #162

Greenfield CH #400

Grace VH #162

Prayer of Reflection and Growth

God of Awe and Harmony-

We were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the way we love becomes conditional. *What events have distorted our view of Divine Love? How can we return to a simple but radical way of loving?* Transform our hearts as we work to understand one another, creating an earth which reflects God's heaven. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

The Spirit of God heals our hearts, blessing us with grace as the Divine One works to transform our world into a realm of peace and joy. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18 NIV

Peter Explains His Actions

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

⁸ "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹ "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

¹⁵ “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6 NIV

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 13:31-35 NIV

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

TH #497

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* *“Blest Be The Tie That Binds”*

Mt Hope PH #272

Greenfield CH #426

Grace TH #280

Today's Message

* *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

Loving God, Holy Vessel of Kindness-

**We glorify you by sharing our gifts of love with this
community. We celebrate your presence by caring for your
creation. May these offerings today nourish a world
craving more love, peace, justice, and hope. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn*

"Face to Face"

Mt Hope VH #447

Greenfield CH #781

Grace VH #447

* *Benediction*

As the week begins again,

May we dance as we celebrate God's presence.

May we sing as we proclaim Christ's love.

May we create as we embrace the Spirit's vision.

May we love boldly, care radically, and share courageously to
glorify the Spirit of God in our midst. Amen!

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*