



*May 26, 2024*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Memorial Day Meditation*

"Heroes never die. They live on in the hearts and minds of those who would follow in their footsteps."

**Emily Potter**

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
Trinity Sunday / Memory Day Sunday / 'Born of Water and Spirit'

May 26, 2024  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by Psalm 29

Credit the Holy One with glory and power!

**Give God the honor due with worshipful reverence!**

The Voice speaks and we hear. The Voice thunders and creation moves.

**The Voice is strong and mighty, secure and majestic.**

The Living Water refreshes us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us.

**Bless the name of our God!**

\* *Invocation*

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh upon us. Renew us by your continued creative acts in the world. Your presence among us is a blessing and a gift. Open us to receive, ponder, and grow as you communicate with your people. In Voice, Body, and Spirit, we worship you and invite your transformative power to be alive among us and at work in us. Here we are, O Triune God, here we are. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

**“Holy, Holy, Holy!”**

*Mt Hope VH #22*

*Greenfield CH #3*

*Grace VH #22*

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

**God of mercy and grace, you come to us with loving compassion. You know our shortcomings and our willfulness. Make us new as we seek to become the people you have called us to be. Help us live according to the spirit and in union with you and community with our neighbors. Give us a burden to be instruments and witnesses of your loving kindness in the world. Hold us accountable as your empowered people. Let repentance and hope for new life**

**overcome any sense of shame that may paralyze us in our past mistakes and misdeeds as we turn toward you with wonder and expectation that you will lead us into life abundantly for all. Amen.**

### *Words of Grace*

Beloved, you are known by the Holy One and invited to live into the life shaped for you in the divine image. Shame and discouragement are not your portion. Holy Love meets you with grace and gladness with the gift of new life in Christ. Receive it for the glory of God, our Source, Friend, and Counselor.

### *Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 29 NRSV**

#### *The Voice of God in a Great Storm*

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- <sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- <sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- <sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl  
and strips the forest bare,  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- <sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

*Nicodemus Visits Jesus*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*     “*Praise Ye the Triune God!*”

*Mt Hope* VH #47

*Greenfield* CH #155

*Grace* VH #47

*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

**Generous God, May we give gifts that are sufficient and abundant as you have provided creation with all that we need to flourish. May the fear of scarcity give way to the joy of sharing. Magnify the resources we bring as well as cultivate generosity within us so that all needs are met, and all your people may be well and whole in your name. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

*“God of Our Fathers”*

*Mt Hope PH #443*

*Greenfield CH #809*

*Grace TH #440*

\* *Benediction*

Go forth having heard the call of the Holy One.

Go forth loved by the Creator, Redeemer, and Companion.

Go forth strengthened by the Sender, the Sent, and the Spirit.

Receive the gift of new birth and eternal life.

Testify to these things.

Enter the kingdom of God. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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*Born of Water and Spirit: Service Prayers for Trinity Sunday Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*