



*May 28, 2023*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Memorial Day Meditation*

No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ**

**– Calvin Coolidge**  
**May 28, 2023**

Mt Hope 8:30am

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

Pentecost Sunday / Memorial Day Service

“Flow Out from Within”

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

**Today, followers of the Way gather in many places,  
From Jerusalem to Galilee, from Honolulu to Auckland.**

**From Rome to Arabia, from Las Vegas to Cleveland.**

God’s Spirit still blows like a mighty wind

**Breathing new life into the sails of our canoes.**

God’s Spirit still flows like currents of living water

**Connecting hearts and islands of all believers.**

Praise God!

**Praise God! Let us worship God, from whom all life’s  
blessings flow!**

\* *Invocation*

O Holy Spirit, come and blow through this gathering space as the Mighty Wind like you did with the apostles at the beginning of the Church. Pour your Spirit upon us all, both colonized and colonizer, of all ages, all genders, to speak your words, see your vision, dream your dreams toward your great and glorious day when everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Flow like rivers of living water from the hearts of believers through the songs of praise, words of worship, and prayers of devotion. Amen!

\* *Opening Hymn*

*“O Worship the King”*

*Mt Hope VH #24*

*Greenfield CH #104*

*Grace VH #24*

*Prayer for Transformation*

**Dearest Lord, God of oceans and land and all life contained therein. You created this world by the power of your word. By your own hands and breath, you formed humankind in every conceivable shade of brown. You gave us islands and continents as a gift and charged us to be the stewards of what you have made. Creator God, we have failed you and abused your gift to us. We have offended you and defiled your creation, including seeing fellow human beings as being less than created in your very image. Forgive us for betraying your trust. Forgive us for our greed and arrogance. Hear the cries of islands drowning in the rising seas, oceans that rise with the melting of the ice. Hear the cries of our world in distress through storm and drought. God of Life, heal your wounded earth. Embolden us to choose the path that leads to life. so that we may renew your Shalom in land, sea, and sky. This we ask in the name of the one who came that we may have life in abundance, your Son, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### *Words of Assurance*

God's love does not belong to one person or group of people. God's love and forgiveness is available to all, even those who do not ask for it. You can also be agents of God's love and healing, so let us strive to receive and give this gift of God's restoration with Creation and with each other. Be God's love and healing for people and planet. Amen.

### *First Reading*

**Acts 2:1-21 NIV**

#### *The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost*

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our

native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

### *Peter Addresses the Crowd*

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ““In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**John 20:19-23 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

### *Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn* "The Comforter Has Come"

*Mt Hope* VH #148

*Greenfield* CH #386

*Grace* VH #148

*Today's Message*

*Memorial Day Narrative Prayer*

Memorial Day is a particularly arresting day, because it is set aside as a day of remembrance for all those who have died in our many conflicts. One of the most famous pictures from World War II must surely be the photo of five valiant Marines raising an American flag on the island of Iwo Jima. The young man in the center of the photo was John Bradley. After the war, Bradley moved back to Antigo, Wisconsin, married his high school sweetheart, and raised a family. Although John Bradley won the Navy Cross for saving a fellow soldier's life, he preferred not to talk about the war. And he absolutely refused to accept the hero worship that others tried to force on him. One of the few comments Bradley ever made about the war, he made to his young son, James. In response to James' remark about heroism, John Bradley replied, "The heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who didn't come back." Today, we honor those men and women who didn't come back. The ones who, in President Abraham Lincoln's words in the Gettysburg Address, "gave the last, full measure of devotion."

Memorial Day is an uncomfortable holiday. Not only are we confronted with the sacrifices they made, but we are also confronted with our response to those sacrifices. The whole concept of anyone making sacrifices for us, much less dying for us, makes us uneasy. If we confront their sacrifices, then we must feel gratitude and humility. Even worse, confronting their heroism forces us to stop and examine our own lives. Why did they do what they did? What cause is worth dying for? And the toughest question: would we be willing to do the same?

*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

**Heavenly God, even as the first believers did in the early church, we lay our gifts at the feet of the apostles. May these gifts support the ministry of our congregation as well as strengthen the wider United Church of Christ. Give our leaders gifts of discernment for the wisest possible use of these resources which we dedicate to you today. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you! Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

**“God of Our Fathers”**

*Mt Hope PH #433*

*Greenfield CH #809*

*Grace TH #440*

\* *Benediction*

Dear Sisters and Brothers, God’s Holy Spirit goes with you, blows with you, and flows with you. So let us be as Living Water, flowing from within this worship service out to a thirsty world. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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**Flow Out from Within:** Service Prayers for Pentecost Sunday was written by Rev. Mikey Kelemete, Senior Pastor of Faaaliga o le Alofa (Vision of Grace) Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, affiliated with both the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano Amerika Samoa) and the United Church of Christ and Rev. Samuelu “Sam” Tialavea, Associate Pastor of Faaaliga o le Alofa. Pastor Sam also serves as secretary for United Samoan Ministries of the UCC and in the Southern California Nevada Conference as Vice-Moderator for the Eastern Association as well as secretary for SCN Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries. Would you like to see what worship in a Samoan church in the USA looks like? Visit us on facebook: (20+) FAAALIGA O LE ALOFA - VISION OF GRACE CHURCH in Las Vegas, NV USA | Facebook