



May 29, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org
greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Morning Meditation

Almighty God, your only Son was taken up into heaven and in power intercedes for us. May we also come into your presence and live forever in your glory.

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
Ascension Sunday/Memorial Day Weekend

May 29, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

(based on Psalm 47 and 93)

Clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Most High God is awesome—

A majestic monarch over all the earth.

Shout! Sing Praises! Sound the trumpets!
Worship, now, the One who reigns.

The Sovereign God of all the nations

Welcomes us into God's grace.

The floods have lifted up their voice;
The thunderous mighty waters roar.

We sing our praises to the One who's holy

Our guide and leader, forevermore.

* *Invocation*

O matchless monarch of the universe, prepare our hearts and minds to hear, to feel, and to know you more deeply in this hour. In this moment, we desire to connect with you, connect with ourselves, and connect with others more intimately so that we may muster up the courage to follow in your ways, in the path of Christ who is ascended. Let us walk more humbly with you as we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth. Arise in us, O God, so that when the world sees us, they really see you. Now, let us worship in spirit and truth, for the sake of justice and mercy. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”*

Mt Hope PH #263

Greenfield CH #403

Grace TH #324

Prayer of Confession

God, we come to acknowledge the ways we have distanced ourselves from your vision of a more just world. In the stillness and silence, we seek to make a commitment to transformation, not for our own personal gain but for the sake of communal wholeness and liberation.

Moment of silence

God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in heavenly ponderings instead of in the power of Christ that works in us. We have spent much of our journey looking above - looking for escape - instead of looking around us. We have searched for rescue instead of being the rescuer. We have focused so much on a future paradise that we have forgotten to care for the soil beneath our feet. Forgive us for the times we stood looking at heaven when there was work to be done right here on earth. Forgive the times when we have neglected to bring good news to the poor on behalf of Jesus. When we have lost our way, remind us of yours. Holy Spirit, fall fresh on us again, so that we can bear witness to mighty works of God through Christ in the world.

Assurance of Grace

God's grace and mercy abounds.

God is with us in our confession and transformation.

Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and forgiven. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 NIV

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 24:44-53 NIV

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

TH #497

⁴⁴ Jesus said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Abide with Me”

Mt Hope PH #209

Greenfield CH #642

Grace TH #51

Today's Message

Memorial Day Tribute **Gettysburg Address** **Abraham Lincoln**

November 19, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

* *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

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community and the world, for the ways it'll help us be witnesses to God's love and compassion. We dedicate these gifts. Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, give power to all we stand for as a community of faith.

* *Closing Hymn*

“I Surrender All”

Mt Hope VH #305

Greenfield CH #596

Grace VH #305

* *Benediction*

Now, let us go forth as witnesses to the wonders of God's work in the world through Christ. Let us spread the Good News to the ends of the earth. Let us release our upward gaze and embrace an outward gaze so that captives can be set free, systems of injustice can be abolished, dangerous status quos can be disrupted, and liberation for all can be experienced. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Associate Minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC and a member of the Southern Conference UCC.