



May 4, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

"Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment."

Pope Francis
Homily at the Inauguration of his Papacy, March 19, 2013

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Joint Service
3rd Sunday of Easter / Blessing of the Fields / Cast the Net

May 4, 2025
Mt Hope 10:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by John 21:1

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way...John 21:1

You'd think, by now, we would be used to him showing up like this—

**inviting us to cast the net deeper and wider,
revealing that the path to abundance lies in daring new possibilities.**

We are beginning to open ourselves to these holy hauntings—
**urging us to share what we have and watch it multiply,
showing us that flourishing happens when we come together.**

We are learning to recognize this sacred presence—
**asking us again and again, “Do you love me?”
calling us to tend and to nourish one another and the earth.**

You'd think, by now, we would be used to Jesus in our midst—
**welcoming us into worship that becomes love in action,
teaching us that transformation is rooted in mutual care and belonging.**

**All: Let us worship God, for we know in our bones,
everywhere we turn, it is the Lord!**

** Invocation*

Is it you, Jesus? Are you really here?
Is the message you gave us really true?
Did the story turn out like you said?
Can we trust it is you in the distance when the night is long and our
nets empty?
Will there be more if we share?
Can we find you when we eat together?
Do we love you when we feed each other?
Amen.

Blessing of the Fields Prayer

Blessed Lord, bless the pastures and meadows, all growing grass
and green fields. May the soil be wholesome and the crops good.
May the weather be favorable and the workers in good heart. And
may He that giveth breath and life to the sower, multiply the seed
sown and increase the fruits of our righteousness. Amen.

Children's Message / Blessing of the Fields

** Opening Children's Hymn*

PH #478

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

**Generous Creator, forgive us when we believe the lies that
scarcity tells us:**

if they just worked harder...

I've earned everything I have...

there won't be enough if I share...

I have to protect what's mine...

safety comes from holding on to what I have...

I can't count on anyone but myself...

Gracious Redeemer, teach us to cast our nets differently.

Time of Silent Reflection

Words of Grace

The Abundant Spirit opens before us the ways of flourishing:
the impulse to share is our birthright
dignity and justice belong to us all
there is more when we contribute to each other's wholeness
together, we keep us safe
flourishing for all is possible together

Praise God who loves us into thriving new life! Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 5:11-14 NRSV

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

**“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”**

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing,

**“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”**

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

** The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 21:1-19 NRSV

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

TH #497

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

* *Gloria Patri*

* *Meditation Hymn* “*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*” PH #460

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

**For the bread that is broken and shared,
for the nourishment we offer one another,
for dignity honored and belovedness affirmed,
for the blessing found in being together,
and for the abundance of love that the world cannot
diminish—**

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings.

Thanks be to God.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

VH #28

* *Benediction*

Beloved community, do you love God?

Yes, you know that we love God.

Feed God’s lambs.

Beloved community, will you keep loving God?

Yes, you know that we will keep loving God.

Tend God’s sheep.

Beloved community, are you blessed by God’s love?

**The God who knows everything knows that we are blessed by
God’s love.**

Then go forth from this place to live and love abundantly

setting a table for all in the midst of injustice

growing relationships of justice, dignity and mutual belovedness

sharing what you have so that all may flourish.

Thanks be to our risen and rising up God!

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Maypole Dance (weather and field conditions pending)