

June 6, 2021 Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor

Píaníst

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Sunday Meditation

In God's eyes, the greatest heroes of faith are not those who achieve prosperity, success, and power in this life., but those who treat life as a temporary assignment and serve faithfully, expecting their promised reward in eternity.

Rick Warren

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am 2nd Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 5 June 6, 2021 Grace 11:00am

Community News Prayer List and Prayers of the People Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 138 The Message)

Come, let us worship our God with joy and thanksgiving:

Everything in us says

Thank you!

At worship in this sacred place we say it again:

Thank you!

For your love, for your faithfulness;

Thank you!

When earth's rulers hear what you have to say, O GOD, They'll sing of what you've done:

How great the glory of GOD!

Finish what you started in us, GoD. Your love is eternal—stay with us, now, that we may say

Thank you!

* Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Mt Hope PH #66

Greenfield CH #182

Grace TH #12

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, some of us come to this place full of anticipation and joy, others come weary and tired. And some of us come here today wondering why we are even here. Renew us in your Holy Spirit. Remind us that your steadfast love follows us wherever we go. Increase our faith, that we may not lose heart or become burdened by the challenges of life. Help us hear again the words of Christ: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." We are yours, O God. Thank you for claiming us as your own. In the name of Christ, your Son and our savior we pray. Amen.

Litany of Confession

When we forget that God's ways lead all to the blessings of justice and mercy:

Lord have mercy.

When we forget that God's ways lead all, especially the most vulnerable, to blessings of safety, health, meaningful work:

Christ have mercy.

When we forget that God's ways lead all to the blessings of the shared abundance of God's beloved creation:

Lord have mercy.

Words of Assurance

Jesus reminds us: "Who is my mother, and who are my sisters and brothers? All those who do the will of God are my brother and sister and mother." In Christ we are forgiven all our failed efforts at community, and invited afresh to rejoin the family of God, seeking blessing for all.

Psalm Reading 138 NIV

¹I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,

for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.

- ³ When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.
- ⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, when they hear what you have decreed.
- ⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD is great.
- ⁶Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar.
- ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.
- You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.

⁸The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever do not abandon the works of your hands.

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1 NIV

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

5 ¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

* The Reading of the Holy Gospel Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

Mark 3:20-35 NIV TH #497

Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law ²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their

sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

* Gloria Patri

Children's Message

* Meditation Hymn "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Mt Hope VH #314 Greenfield CH #597 Grace VH #314

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.

³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

* 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, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not just in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

* Closing Hymn

"Day by Day"

Mt Hope VH #266

Greenfield CH #718

Grace VH #266

* Renediction

Finish what you started in us, GOD. Your love is eternal—go with us, now, into the world, that we may say

Thank you!

* Three-Fold Amen

TH # 558

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle