



*June 13, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Meditation*

Growth in godly character is not only progressive and always unfinished, it is absolutely necessary for spiritual survival. If we are not growing in godly character, we are regressing; in the spiritual life we never stand still.

**Jerry Bridges**  
*The Practice of Godliness (1996)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 6

June 13, 2021  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*(based on Psalm 92:1-4)*

Come and give thanks to our God. Sing praises to the holy name.

**With the melody of the lute and the harp and the song in our hearts, we declare God's steadfast love in the morning and faithfulness at night.**

God's works make us glad.

**Your works are great, O God. We sing our praises of joy to you.**

\* *Opening Hymn*            *"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"*

*Mt Hope VH #183            Greenfield CH #528            Grace VH #183*

*Gathering Prayer*

**O God, maker of all that is beautiful, Jesus gave us the seeds of your justice and peace. In this time together, touch us, teach us, inspire us to sow those seeds through our ministries so that all may share in Creation's abundance to make true the promise that no one will know scarcity, and no one will suffer deprivation in this community and beyond. Amen.**

*Prayer of Confession*

Let us take a moment of silence and reflect on our own lives, on our limitations, on our sins.

*<Silent Reflection>*

**Gracious God, you are indeed generous. You give us the gifts of the spirit which enable us to have so much. We forget, however, that we have been recipients of other people's generosity. Believing that what we have is ours, we forget that all we have is yours. Forgive us. Help us to remember that being made in your image, we should be as generous as you. Amen.**

### *Words of Assurance*

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit and a contrite heart. By God's steadfast love for us, we are forgiven of our sins.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *First Reading*

**Ezekiel 17:22-24 NIV**

<sup>22</sup>“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. <sup>24</sup>All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

### *Epistle Lesson*

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 NIV**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup>For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 4:26-34 NIV

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

TH #497

*The Parable of the Growing Seed*

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

*The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

<sup>33</sup> With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup> He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

*"It Is Well With My Soul"*

*Mt Hope VH #270*

*Greenfield CH #705*

*Grace VH #270*

## *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

**You have been exceedingly generous to us, O God. We return a portion of what we have to you in grateful thanksgiving. Bless our offerings that they will nurture the seeds of hope and healing in this community and beyond.  
Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*                      *“I Love to Tell the Story”*  
Mt Hope VH #401              Greenfield CH #444              Grace VH #401

\* *Benediction*

May God’s love be with you as you sow seeds of justice and peace along the paths you will travel so all may know the gospel’s promise.

**Amen**

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*