



*June 25, 2023*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

If you've trusted God with your child during the good times, why is it hard to trust Him with your teen during the hard times.

– Mark Gregston  
*What's Happening to My Teen? (2009)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

June 25, 2023  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Incline your ear, O God. Hear the praises of your people.

**Gladden the hearts of your servants, as we lift up our souls to you.**

For you, O God, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love.

**In the day of trouble, we call on you, knowing you will answer.**

Your people everywhere glorify your name.

**For you are slow to anger and abound in steadfast love.**

Turn to us and be gracious.

\* *Invocation*

Thank you, Loving Spirit, for the warmth of summer and for your invitation to embrace abundant life. Your promise of resurrection allows past troubles to die, as we rise with you to new life. Inspire us to follow your lead, even when it requires us to bear a cross of sacrifice in your name. May our love for you be complete, as we share words and acts of compassion with a world that yearns for your peace. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

*Mt Hope VH #200*

*“Blessed Assurance”*

*Greenfield CH #572*

*Grace VH #200*

## *Prayer for Confession*

Gracious and Loving God, lead us in ways that lead to life.

Free us to love as completely as you love. Help us find our worth, not by lifting ourselves above others, but by accepting that we belong to you. May our fulfillment be found, not in what we hold onto, but in what we freely give in your name. Free us, dear God, to live without fear, following wherever your Spirit leads. In the spirit of Christ's compassion, we pray. Amen.

## *Words of Assurance*

The one who frees us from selfishness fills us with God's selfless love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

## *First Reading*

Genesis 21:8-21 NIV

### *Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away*

<sup>8</sup> The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, <sup>10</sup> and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

<sup>11</sup> The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. <sup>12</sup> But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. <sup>13</sup> I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

<sup>14</sup> Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.

<sup>17</sup> God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. <sup>18</sup> Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”

<sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. <sup>21</sup> While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 10:24-39 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

<sup>24</sup> “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

<sup>26</sup> “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup> a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

<sup>37</sup> "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn* "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

*Mt Hope PH #423*

*Greenfield FHP #180*

*Grace TH #394*

*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

**Generous God, your morning sun gives life, your evening  
breeze refreshes the soul. As life grows to its fullest this  
summer, let us give generously and repeatedly. Through  
our gifts, may the hungry be fed, the lonely find good  
friends, and the grieving find comfort. With these  
offerings, we offer our own lives, that we may rise again to  
live with you. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

**“Wonderful Grace of Jesus”**

*Mt Hope* VH #188

*Greenfield* CH #338

*Grace* VH #188

\* *Benediction*

We believe in a God of new beginnings! May the grace of Christ,  
the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit bring hope  
to our hearts and peace to God's world. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*