



*June 26, 2022*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

Freedom is not just freedom from restraint; freedom is freedom to do what God has empowered you to do.

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ**

**Mel Lawrenz**  
**Jubilee (2008)**  
**June 26, 2022**

Mt Hope 8:30am

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

The way of our God is holy.

**Holy One, we seek your presence in our midst.**

The way of our God is wondrous.

**Wondrous God, we marvel at your works and marvelous deeds.**

The way of our God is awesome.

**Awesome God, we call out to you in hope.**

\* *Invocation*

Liberating One, we keep you before us. Our souls rejoice and our hearts are gladdened. Our very beings find safety and security in your presence. We approach you with thanksgiving and anticipation. Enliven us to be your people in the world. Embolden us to live in freedom. Empower us to be your good news. Stand up in us and show us the path of life. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

*“He Leadeth Me”*

*Mt Hope PH #370*

*Greenfield CH #690*

*Grace VH #276*

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

**Restoring God, too often we accept the conditions of the world around us and impose limitations on what is possible. We bind ourselves to societal conventions, norms, and pressure rather than follow you and your way. We conform to the values of this world rather than pursue the fruit of the Spirit. Show us the path of life and freedom in you. Teach us to plant seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we perennially bear that fruit.**

## *Assurance of Grace*

The Guiding Spirit opens us to new life and leads us to right paths. Hear the voice that continually calls, leads, and companions with us. Life in the Spirit is constantly renewed and restored. Let the grace of God nurture our roots and allow our flourishing. Amen.

## *Epistle*

### **Galatians 5:1, 13-25 NIV**

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

#### *Life by the Spirit*

<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

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

Luke 9:51-62 NIV

TH #497

*Samaritan Opposition*

<sup>51</sup> As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then he and his disciples went to another village.

*The Cost of Following Jesus*

<sup>57</sup> As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

<sup>58</sup> Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, “Follow me.”

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

<sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

<sup>61</sup> Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

<sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

*Recognition of Graduates (Mt Hope & Grace)*

Cassie Berkhimer – Claysburg-Kimmel High School

Aaron Reynolds – Northern Bedford High School

\* *Meditation Hymn*      *“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”*

*Mt Hope PH #242*

*Greenfield NCH #63*

*Grace TH #188*

*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

**Giver of Gifts, receive the resources we bring. May they bless our community and our world. May bonds of scarcity be broken as we meet the needs around us with the gifts that you have first given to us. May we be gladdened by giving and rejoice in generosity. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

**Rock of Ages”**

*Mt Hope* VH #275

*Greenfield* CH #342

*Grace* VH #275

\* *Benediction*

As you go into the world, stand firm in the freedom of Christ. Be guided and live by the Spirit. Glorify God and bear fruit. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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**Freedom and Fruit:** Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Pentecost were written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

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