



June 4, 2023
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

The richness, beauty and depths of love can only be fully experienced in a climate of complete openness, honesty and vulnerability.”

– Anthony Venn Brown

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Joint Service
Trinity Sunday / “Authority”

June 4, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

After Jesus’ death and resurrection, He called the eleven to a mountaintop in Galilee and they went.

Let us be attentive to the voice of Jesus and bravely go when called.

Once the eleven saw Jesus they doubted but still worshipped Him.

Let us forgive ourselves when we doubt and remain open to understanding as we encounter Jesus.

As they worshiped, Jesus declared his authority and charged the eleven to GO to ALL people. He instructed them to build community with ALL people, be willing to touch ALL people, and be willing to minister to ALL people.

Let us bravely Go to All people especially those society often tries to ignore.

Jesus instructed the eleven to use their voice, their stories, and their authentic truth as a witness to those whom they ministered to.

Let us stand in authenticity empowered by the Holy Spirit as we bravely share our story to help others find the love of Jesus.

Jesus assured the eleven to remember that He would always be with them.

Let us bravely live, work, and GO in authenticity as we do the work of connecting people with the Love of Jesus. Let us remember that His love, peace, and hope is always with us. Amen

* *Opening Hymn*

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

Grace VH #22

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God, often in our quest to do the work that we are called to do we miss the mark. At times we doubt even as we worship.

Sometimes in the same day that we offer gratitude for answered prayers and blessings received we think thoughts of apprehension and utter words of uncertainty concerning those same blessings.

Occasionally we forget that the peace, love, hope, and joy of the Divine extends beyond the walls of our churches and the hearts of those who identify as Christians.

Frequently we forget how the Divine and Jesus have moved in our own lives. Help us to push through our doubt. Help us to move past our selfishness and fear of “other people.” Help us to truly love our neighbors as ourselves—all of our neighbors. Please change our hearts God.

Please help us to muster the bravery to put into practice the light and love of Jesus.

Help us to love boldly without hesitation. All humans are worthy of experiencing the Love of Christ.

Please change our hearts and minds. Please show us how to love all.

We confess that we get it wrong all the time and we pray that you help us to do better.

Words of Assurance

Assuredly God forgives us of all of our wrongdoings— those committed consciously and unconsciously. Thank you God for your forgiveness. Let us forgive others as God continuously forgives us as we work to do better starting now. Amen

The Beginning

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6 And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9 And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was

good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 28:16-20 NIV

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

TH #497

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

Grace TH #318

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

We offer these gifts to the God of all people. We cheerfully give our treasure to bring love, peace, hope, joy, justice, and healing to those who are hurting. May these gifts be blessed and used to provide ministry for those who are too often forgotten in our society. Let the generosity represented here be magnified and amplified to stretch beyond our mortal thought and imagination. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* “This is My Father’s World” Grace VH #21

* *Benediction*

Lord, dismiss us in your light and in your love. Let us leave this worship experience stronger and wiser than when we entered it. Let us leave with a renewed sense of hope and healing. Let us leave this space walking and serving in authenticity understanding that our greatest witness is our truth. The truth that you offer love and peace to every person as they are no matter who they are. Thank you God. Amen

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Authority: Service Prayers for Trinity Sunday Year A was written by Rev. Derek Terry is the current pastor of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, OH and is on the leadership team of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.

Newsletter: Items for the 3Q newsletter are due to Jeanne by June 18. Please note, after 16 years, Jeanne has determined it is time to turn the preparation of the newsletter over to the next interested person. If you would like to enter the world of publishing, please speak with Jeanne. In the interim, we will be preparing “Trinity Briefs” at the beginning of each quarter and including these as a supplement to the bulletin. At a minimum, we will still publish the Schedule of Worship, birthdays/anniversaries, and other notes of importance. Otherwise, notices of meetings, trips, etc... will be included as bulletin notes, as needed. Thanks for your support through the years! Jeanne

VBS Needs: Vacation Bible Sschool will be held at Mt. Hope the week of July 16th -20th. We need empty 2-liter soda bottles. Please give these to Pastor Wendy or to Rachel Pejack. Thank you!