



“He who has ears,
let him hear.”

-Matthew 13:9

July 12, 2020

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org, God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker
Mrs. Wendy Farber

Pianist/Organist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Sunday Morning Thought

Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week.

Joseph Allison

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am

July 12, 2020
Grace 11:00am

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Community News

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

based on Matthew 13

We are like seeds on the wind, set free by the Sower.

The hand of God saves us from the rocky pathways and the thorny ground.

In Christ, we find good soil.

The Holy Spirit nourishes us as we grow.

Come! Let us worship the Sower, who plants us in the fields of life.

* *Opening Hymn*

"Sweet By and By"

Mt Hope VH #453

Greenfield CH #8

Grace VH #453

Gathering Prayer

Great Sower, cast us like seeds upon the winds of your mercy, that we may grow in fertile ground. Keep our lives from stony pathways, where the heat of life's cares and strife strip our strength and vitality. Protect us from thorny gullies, where the snares of life's worries and fears block the sunshine of your spirit. Land us safely in rich soil, Master Gardener, and bless us with the kiss of gentle rain, that our faith may increase and our joy may be complete. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

based on Matt 13, Rom 8, Ps 119

Caretaker of our souls,

**we yearn to resist the allures of status and prestige,
for we often pierce ourselves with wounds of own making.**

We long to bloom where we are planted,

that righteousness and peace might flower in our lives.

Free us of the fear of appearing foolish before others,
as we seek new growth in your Spirit.
Nurture us with your grace and mercy,
that we might blossom and bloom as followers of Christ.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Those who abide in the Spirit are set free.
Those who reside in Christ find no condemnation.
Rejoice that we have been planted in the fertile ground of God's
love and mercy.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

Let us pray ...

**Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us,
may we be generous to others.**

**Accept from us these gifts of word and money
as we commit our lives to you. Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 25:19-34, NIV

Jacob and Esau

¹⁹ This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ The LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;

one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.”

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

³¹ Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

³² “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

³³ But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NIV

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

TH #497

The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places,

where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Here ends the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Meditation Hymn

“In the Garden”

Mt Hope VH #228

Greenfield CH #635

Grace VH #228

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

* *Closing Hymn* “Praise Him! Praise Him”
Mt Hope VH #31 Greenfield CH #12 Grace VH #31

* *Benediction*

God's word is a lamp to our feet.
Christ's teachings are a light to our path.
May God's word take root in our lives.
May Christ's love nourish us like sunshine and spring rain.
God's word is a lamp to our feet.
Christ's teachings are a light to our path.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle* TH # 558

* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*