



July 19, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org, God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker
Mrs. Wendy Farber

Pianist/Organist
Sylvia O. (MH)

Christmas in July Meditation

When you finally realize that Christ is your very own, not only for all the world, not only for all the shepherds, not only for all the angels, but when you realize that Christ is your very own, then there becomes a glow in your heart, and you begin to sing the Gloria.

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

July 19, 2020
Grace 11:00am

7th Sunday after Pentecost/Christmas in July

Community News

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Jesus Christ is the Word from God who becomes flesh and blood.

God of beginning, God who sends life, God who names us your children, we have gathered here to worship you.

Jesus Christ is the light from God who enlightens everyone.

Word with God, Word in the beginning, Word who brings life, we have gathered here to worship you.

Jesus Christ is the grace and truth from God who embraces all who receive him.

Will of God shining in darkness, Will of God giving power, Will of God who gives new birth, we have gathered here to worship you.

Jesus Christ is one with God, who is God, who is the Word of God, who is the Will of God.

Holy God, Holy Word, Holy Will, we receive you, we believe you, we worship you, we praise you, we glorify you, we bless you, we bow down before you, forever thanking you for our new birth as your children.

* *Opening Hymn* “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” vs 1,3,4
Mt Hope VH #95 Greenfield CH #251 Grace VH #95

Collect

**O Lord, we have walked in darkness;
Now we see a bright light!
We have walked in shadows;
But now the shadows are gone.
Help us to walk in the light of the Christ-Child.
Help us to light the path for the whole world to see the light. Amen.**

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

Let us pray ...

O God, you have made known to us this great thing that happened when Jesus came into the world. Like the shepherds of old, we sing your praises for all that you have revealed to us, and we offer these gifts that they may be used to spread the Good News throughout the world. Amen.

Psalm Reading

(Based on Psalm 96)

Let us sing a new song to the Lord, all the earth. Let us bless the name of the Lord and tell of his salvation from day to day. Let us declare his glory among the nations and his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, to be revered above all our aspirations.

Come, Lord, and dwell with us in the fullness of your glory. Come, King, and order our lives so that we may perfectly magnify your holy name. Come, Savior, and rescue us, and our world enmeshed in sin and war.

You will judge the world with righteousness and truth, and the whole of creation, the heavens, the earth, the sea, the fields, the trees of the forest, and the people of all nations will bend their knee and praise your name. Let it all come to pass, Lord, even as you promise. We as your faithful approach you with awe and wonder. Once more we hear your angels speaking peace and justice to all the world. Amen and Amen.

The Changes a Baby Can Bring

Erik Ritz

Bret Harte, in his classic short story, "The Luck of Roaring Camp," tells of the birth of a baby on the American frontier - a baby that made a radical change in a rough-and-tumble mining camp. The only woman in the camp, Cherokee Sal, a disreputable woman at best, died in childbirth, leaving a healthy young baby boy to be raised by the now all-male camp.

These rough, hard men made a decision that would reflect changes that would come later. They considered hiring a woman nurse to care for the

baby, but eventually decided not to. Their logic was this: a nice nurse would not come to their camp, and they did not want any more women who weren't nice hanging around their baby. And so, the work of regeneration began in Roaring Camp.

The cabin assigned to little "Tommy Luck," as they called him, was kept scrupulously clean and white-washed. The beautiful rosewood cradle that they purchased for the baby made the rest of the cabin look wretched, so they had to fix up the rest of the furniture in the room. Then a quarantine was imposed on those who wanted to hold little Tommy Luck, so they had to clean up for that privilege.

Each act of cleanliness exposed that much more dirt and filth in the vicinity, so that new measures were taken to keep an ever-wider expanse of the camp clean. Since the baby needed rest, the camp became quieter and more dignified, less noisy and boisterous, no longer the "Roaring Camp" of the story's title.

The story of the baby of Roaring Camp is the story of the regeneration of a people. A baby changed the whole atmosphere of the Roaring Camp. So, it was two thousand years ago in Bethlehem. A baby changed the atmosphere for all who have come to know him.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 2:1-14 NIV

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

TH #497

Christ Born of Mary

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Glory in the Highest

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an

angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

**“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth, peace and goodwill toward men!”**

This is the Birth Narrative of our new-born King, Jesus Christ.
Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Meditation Hymn

“Silent Night! Holy Night”

Mt Hope VH #90

Greenfield CH #253

Grace TH #101

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* “Joy to the World”
Mt Hope VH #88 Greenfield CH #270 Grace VH #88

* *Benediction*

May the child born for us grow in our hearts, may his authority shape our lives and our world, and may his justice and righteousness transform our sorrows and our fears; for he who is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, is also the Prince of Peace.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

* *Three-Fold Amen*

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

* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*