



July 26, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org, God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker
Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist/Organist
Sylvia O.

Sunday Morning Thought

*"There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after
they have gone the light remains."* — Unknown

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

July 26, 2020
Grace 11:00am

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

The kingdom of heaven is like:

A tiny mustard seed that carries the life of a tree

The kingdom of heaven is like:

A tiny portion of yeast that makes bread rise

The kingdom of heaven is like:

A tiny pearl of great price that we would give all our “stuff” to have

The kingdom of heaven is like:

A fishing boat filled with catch—good and bad together—

With fisherfolk wise to recognize the good.

* *Opening Hymn* “*All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*”

Mt Hope VH #8

Greenfield CH #43

Grace VH #8

Gathering Prayer

Holy One,

you call us to find your kingdom

already hidden in our world—

in tiny, transforming possibilities;

in beauty that calls us to surrender all;

in complicated choices that call for wisdom.

Reveal yourself here in this moment

And heighten our senses that we may find you

And join you in building this kingdom of love, and hope, and peace.

In the name of the One who calls us to seek,

Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

1 Kings 3:5-12

In today's reading from 1 Kings 3, The Holy One asks Solomon, newly come to the throne, to ask for any gift. Solomon ponders, and asks for the gift that will enable him to serve the people of God best: an understanding heart, to know good from evil, and to lead the people in wisdom. There were other reasonable gifts that Solomon could have chosen; but he put the needs of the people at the center of his desire.

Let us take a moment in silence to consider our lives, the many competing needs that confront us; Let's ask for the discernment and wisdom that Solomon longed for, that our choices may reflect generosity and the common good.

Silence

Words of Assurance

Psalms 119:129-136

Holy One, your word gives light and understanding to all; we open ourselves to you in prayer and find you already in our hearts, leading us in the way of justice, compassion, and peace; calling us to find you in our neighbors' need as well. We give thanks.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

Grow these gifts in your love,

Bless our offerings, our hearts and our hopes in your love

To make us worthy of your work for your Kingdom in heaven,

And among us here, even now.

Fill these gifts and each of us with your goodness. Amen.

More Than Conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 NIV

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

TH #497

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Parable of the Net

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

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

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Meditation Hymn “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” vs 1-3,5

Mt Hope VH #23

Greenfield CH #21

Grace TH #23

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* *"Our Great Savior"* vs 1,3,5
 Mt Hope VH #30 *Greenfield CH #17* *Grace VH #30*

* *Benediction*

Go forth in Wisdom, in hope, in courage
With hearts open to recognize the signs of the reign of God in our midst,
and courage to create more space for grace in our lives and our world.

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*