



*July 11, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Meditation*

So often our primary ambition is to escape pain or feel good or be delivered from a problem when instead we need to keep our focus on the big picture of what God is doing in our life and the lives of others through pain or problems. Our primary aim should be to glorify God, not be honored or to be healthy or to be happy.

**Anne Graham Lotz**  
*Trusting God When You Don't Understand (2004)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 10

July 11, 2021  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*based on 2 Samuel and Psalm 24*

Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

**We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all that dwells within.**

The Lord of the Dance beckons us to join in this time of celebration and joy...

**That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.**

We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

**We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.**

**All: Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word. God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

*Mt Hope PH #195*

*Greenfield CH #43*

*Grace VH #8*

*Call to Confession*

This is a moment given by God to confess our sins against each other, all that God has created, an God. Let us take this moment to account for the ways in which we have not embodied what it means to be created in the image of God.

## *Prayer of Confession*

Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be put off your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction.

**Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings.**

## *Words of Assurance*

The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word, we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home. Accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ.

## *Epistle Reading*

**Ephesians 1:3-14 NIV**

### *Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with

the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 6:14-29 NIV

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

TH #497

*John the Baptist Beheaded*

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

<sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?”

“The head of John the Baptist,” she answered.

<sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

<sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John’s disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

*Recognition of Graduates (Grace)*

Ally Walter – Claysburg-Kimmel 2020

\* *Meditation Hymn*     “*The God of Abraham Praise*”

*Mt Hope* VH #39

*Greenfield* CH #23

*Grace* VH #39

*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

**Beloved Jesus, you surprise us by naming us your friends.**

**Your dance of faithfulness and life, open before us a way of  
unexpected justice, mutuality and joy. Take these gifts and  
bless them and let them serve your people at home and  
throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends.  
Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

*“If Jesus Goes With Me”*

*Mt Hope* VH #295

*Greenfield* Insert

*Grace* VH #295

\* *Benediction*

Go forth into the world in faithfulness. Join all those who have  
danced with the Lord throughout the generations. Take the song  
and rhythm of God’s Word into the world and invite others to  
celebrate the joy with you. AMEN

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*