



July 24, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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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
7th Sunday after Pentecost / Christmas in July

July 24, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

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.**

* *Invocation*

God of love, choirs of angels sang to your glory on the night of
Jesus' birth. Open our mouths to sing your praise, that we might
join the heavenly chorus. As the shepherds left their sheep in the
fields may we leave our cares behind, that we too may find the
hope of our salvation in the Christ child. May our worship befit
the Prince of Peace, who came to show us the depths of your love.
Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

Mt Hope VH #95

Greenfield CH #251

Grace VH #95

Prayer of Yearning

Isaiah 9, Luke 2

Source of joy, you are the author of everlasting life. Touch us with the wonder of that holy night when your Son came into the world. For we yearn to leave the shadows behind to walk in darkness no more. We long to behold your light shining in our lives, as it shined in the stars above on the night love came down at Christmas. Guide our steps to the manger, and make us instruments of your justice and peace, that the gift of your salvation may reside in every corner of the globe. We ask this in the name of our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Assurance of Grace

Like the people of old, we who walked in darkness, have seen a great light. We, who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on us light has shined. Live in this light and you will live indeed.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 2:1-14 NIV

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

TH #497

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were

terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Silent Night! Holy Night!*”

Mt Hope VH #90

Greenfield CH #253

Grace VH #90

Today's Message

Christmas in July Prayer

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.

* *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

**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.**

* *Closing Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #88

“Joy to the World”

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. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*