



July 25, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

“It seems to me that in joining a church you leave home and home town to join a larger world. The whole world is your new neighborhood and all who dwell therein – black, white, yellow, red, stuffed and starving, smart and stupid, mighty and lowly, criminal and self-respecting, American or Russian – all become your sisters and brothers in the new family formed in Jesus. By joining a church you declare your individuality in the most radical way in order to affirm community on the widest possible scale.”

William Sloane Coffin
from Credo (pages 142-143)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
8th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 11 | Christmas in July

July 25, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Psalm 23, adapted

As God is our shepherd, we need nothing else.

**We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters, which
renews and refreshes our spirits.**

God guides us along paths of righteousness

**And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not
afraid. The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies.

There, we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

**Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us as long as we
dwell in the house of God.**

* *Opening Hymn*

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22 NIV

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from

Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 2:1-20 NKJV

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. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ 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

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*”

Mt Hope VH #215

Greenfield CH #667

Grace VH #215

Today's Message

Christmas in July Prayer

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 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.**

