



July 4, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Meditation

God does amazing things when His truth is proclaimed.

Colin Smith
Unlocking the Bible Story (2002)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
6th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 9

July 4, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

When winds tear into our vessels,

God's grace will be our guide.

When insecurities mount up within our souls,

God's strength will be our guide.

When hardships weaken our resolve,

God's mercy will be our guide.

When insults rip and slander stains,

God's courage will be our guide.

When vulnerability saps our faith,

God's presence will be our guide.

* *Opening Hymn* *"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

Mt Hope PH #246

Greenfield CH #8

Grace TH #4

Gathering Prayer

Divine Summoner, through your voice, we understand who you created us to be. Though your voice, we understand our calling. Though your persistent presence, we find resilience. May we contently embrace our vulnerabilities. May we boldly claim our pasts, and may we find our future with determination and grace. Amen.

Prayer to Confession

Holy Creator, we have refused to give our neighbors the honor they deserve. We have rejected others, as Jesus was rejected before us. Status drives us. Gossip lures us. Reputations gain more traction than the entirety of the person in front of us. We

choose chaos over kindness, and disconnection over spiritual bonds. May our hearts repent, returning to your voice. May our souls reconnect, returning to our neighbor. May our minds renew, returning to the ones you created us to be. May your grace abound. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Shame lives within us no more. God's grace is sufficient for all. May the power of Christ dwell in our souls, elevate our spirits, and nudge us to grow in our relationships. Amen.

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5 NIV

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." ² As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

³ He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. ⁴ The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' ⁵ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 123 NIV

¹ I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.

² As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he shows us his mercy.

³ Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.

⁴ We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 NIV

² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—⁴ was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 6:1-13 NIV

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

TH #497

A Prophet Without Honor

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? ³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵ He could

not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

⁸ These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Nothing But the Blood”

Mt Hope VH #122

Greenfield CH #337

Grace VH #122

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

**Outspoken Prophet, hear the message we are speaking
through these gifts and aid us in spreading that message of
hope and love to those whose voices have been silenced.
May they strengthen our congregation so that we may
continue to listen to those in need.**

* *Closing Hymn*

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Mt Hope VH #460

Greenfield CH #804

Grace VH #460

* *Benediction*

Go out now with eyes and ears open,
to hear and be heard
as you share the good news with one another.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*