



July 7, 2024
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
Joint Service
7th Sunday after Pentecost / Deeds of Power**

**July 7, 2024
Greenfield 10:00am**

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

*** *Call to Worship***

Inspired by Psalm 48

Great is the Holy One who sits sovereign and near!

The earth rejoices on the holy mountain, at the heights and depths of God's love.

We gather, we observe, we recognize, we ponder the wonders of Creator's majesty!

God's name, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

The mighty deeds of power astound and amaze. We remember and recount from generation to generation!

Our Guide reigns forever and ever. Praise our God!

*** *Invocation***

Powerful One, we come into this gathering humbled by your presence among us, grateful for the companionship of your people, and eager to worship your name. As we tell your story anew, we enter your story as the objects of your attention, love, and care. May we know you more deeply and clearly. May we be inspired by your deeds of power to be instruments of your reign in the world. Empower us, O Holy One. Amen.

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

*** *Opening Children's Hymn***

"Thanks, God"

VBS Video

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Gracious and Loving God, have mercy on us. We confess our own forms of rebellion and stubbornness. We seek our own way and fail to wait for your counsel, wisdom, and insight. We choose comfort over holy confrontation, doctrine over faithful discipleship and position over spiritual power. Awaken in us hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen.

Words of Grace

Power-filled beloved, the Holy One is with you and fuels your journey. God grants you power to be the church, to be faithful, and to be active agents in the kingdom. Receive the grace to try even when your way is uncertain, to hope even when circumstances seem dim, and to love even when love does not come easily. God is with you and will be with you. Amen.

First Reading

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 NRSV

David Anointed King of All Israel

5 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. ²For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you, ‘It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.’” ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. ⁵At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

⁹David occupied the stronghold and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. ¹⁰And David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts was with him.

The Glory and Strength of Zion

- ¹ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
³ Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defense.
⁴ Then the kings assembled;
they came on together.
⁵ As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic; they took to flight;
⁶ trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labor,
⁷ as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.
⁸ As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes forever. *Selah*
⁹ We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
¹⁰ Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad;
let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments.
¹² Walk about Zion; go all around it;
count its towers;
¹³ consider well its ramparts;
go through its citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
¹⁴ that this is God,
our God forever and ever.
He will be our guide forever.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 6:1-13 NRSV

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

TH #497

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

The Mission of the Twelve

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

* *Gloria Patri*

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Baptized in Water”

CH #465

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

Creator, all we have originates from you and your creation.

Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs.

Amen.

** Closing Hymn*

“Here I Am, Lord”

CH #589

** Benediction*

May the power of God increase to saturate you.

May the power of God ignite a new vision in you.

May the power of God inspire you to follow the way of Jesus in the world.

God in peace and in power to love God and neighbor. Amen.

** Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

** Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Deeds of Power: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.