



*August 2, 2020*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Lay Speaker  
Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist/Organist  
Sylvia O. (MH)

*Sunday Morning Thought*

*In our darkest hours, God's light continues to shine. In our weariest moments, God's strength is enough. In our times of greatest isolation, God's presence is always near.*

*Genesis 32, Matthew 14*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am

August 2, 2020  
Grace 11:00am

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

*Genesis 32; Mt 11, 14*

Come, all who are weary.

**Christ strengthens us with love and grace.**

In this strength, we can do all things.

**We are here, ready to receive God's blessings.**

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"The Solid Rock"*

*Mt Hope VH #232*

*Greenfield CH #526*

*Grace VH #232*

*Gathering Prayer*

Mighty God, pour out your power and strength on us.

Grant us the nourishment we need to receive your word.

May your presence fill our lives and carry us forth, preparing us to be your people and equipping us to do your work in the world.

In your holy name we pray. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession*

Come to us, Holy One,

**even in our times of resistance.**

Work within and through us,

**even when we wrestle with doubt and despair**

Enlighten and guide us,

**even in our darkest hours.**

Bless us and call us by name,

**even when we reject your presence.**

Hold us and love us

**even when we try to run away.**

When we feel beat down by the world,  
**and are weary with fatigue and sorrow,**  
**nourish us with your mercy and your grace.**  
Fill us with your love,  
**that we may go forth with confidence and faith.**  
In your mighty name, we pray. Amen.

### *Words of Assurance*

God's strength is enough.  
Christ's forgiveness is sure.  
Through God's strength and Christ's grace, we are blessed, loved,  
and made whole.

### *First Reading*

*Genesis 32:22-31*

#### *Jacob Wrestles With God*

<sup>22</sup> That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup> The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

<sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

<sup>29</sup> Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

<sup>31</sup> The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

*A prayer of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> Hear me, LORD, my plea is just;  
listen to my cry.  
Hear my prayer—  
it does not rise from deceitful lips.
- <sup>2</sup> Let my vindication come from you;  
may your eyes see what is right.
- <sup>3</sup> Though you probe my heart,  
though you examine me at night and test me,  
you will find that I have planned no evil;  
my mouth has not transgressed.
- <sup>4</sup> Though people tried to bribe me,  
I have kept myself from the ways of the violent  
through what your lips have commanded.
- <sup>5</sup> My steps have held to your paths;  
my feet have not stumbled.
- <sup>6</sup> I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;  
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.
- <sup>7</sup> Show me the wonders of your great love,  
you who save by your right hand  
those who take refuge in you from their foes.
- <sup>15</sup> And I—in righteousness I will see your face;  
when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

*The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

\* Doxology

\* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**Holy Spirit, as you blessed Jacob long ago, bless us now. As you blessed bread and fish on a Galilean shore, bless and transform these gifts into abundant blessings for those in need; bless and guide our ministries into avenues for your mercy and grace. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.**

***Paul's Anguish Over Israel***

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup> I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, <sup>4</sup> the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup> Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 14:13-21 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

***Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand***

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

<sup>17</sup> “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

<sup>18</sup> “Bring them here to me,” he said. <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Here ends the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

*Meditation Hymn* "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Mt Hope VH #236

Greenfield CH #688

Grace VH #236

*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

\* *Closing Hymn* “He Lives”  
*Mt Hope* VH #137      *Greenfield* CH #368      *Grace* VH #137

\* *Benediction*

As we have received light,  
we go now to bring light to the world.  
As we have received God’s blessings,  
we go now to be blessings to others.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*