



*August 22, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Centering Meditation*

*As this piece of bread was scattered over the hills and then was brought together and made one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom. For yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.*

*from the **Didache***

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 16

August 22, 2021  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

In this house you will find bread for your life's journey.

**In Jesus, we find life a-new**

Come. Stay awhile and eat this bread so you will never hunger.

**In Jesus, we find life a-new**

Come. Be strengthened in God to withstand the present night and the spiritual forces of evil.

**In Jesus, we find life a-new.**

\* *Opening Hymn*                      *"Who Is On The Lord's Side?"*

*Mt Hope VH #383*

*Greenfield CH #674*

*Grace VH #383*

*First Reading*

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.'

<sup>14</sup> "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

### *Prayer of Invocation*

O God, we have no life apart from you. We do not come here to eat bread that fills us for a day. Rather we come to be nourished by you and that the love you have for us fills us for a lifetime. May this food strengthen our discipleship. Grant that it will renew in us our commitment to proclaiming the gospel of peace through our ministries of peace and justice in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

### *Prayer of Confession*

We profess that you are God, O Holy One. We have no other gods, and yet, we do not always serve you with sincerity and faithfulness. Our “other gods” are not the ones of our ancestors—the ones beyond the River, or in Egypt, or of the Amorites. We struggle with “other gods” here and now who seek to fulfill us by consumerism and with self-importance. We hear gods who instill in us such fear of our enemies that we seek power from weapons of destruction. Help us, O God, to find fulfillment in you. Forgive us that we are skeptical of love’s transforming power. We repent of our sins and turn our hearts again to you. Amen.

### *Words of Assurance*

No other god cares for us as God does.  
No other god loves us as God does.  
No other god forgives us as God does.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***The Armor of God***

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**John 6:56-69 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

<sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

***Many Disciples Desert Jesus***

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

<sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*     “*The Church's One Foundation*”

*Mt Hope* VH #161

*Greenfield* CH #401

*Grace* VH #161

*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

**Accept our offerings of praise in grateful thanksgiving for  
your presence in our lives and the many blessings you  
bestow upon us. Consecrate our offering, O God, that it  
may become bread to fill the emptiness and heal the  
brokenness of the lives in this community and beyond. And  
may we be reminded that our real life begins when we give  
with generous hearts to proclaim the gospel in the name of  
Christ Jesus. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*      “*Wonderful Words of Life*”  
*Mt Hope* VH #168      *Greenfield* CH #406      *Grace* VH #168

\* *Benediction*

Go forth from here filled with the bread of life. Share that bread  
with those you meet so they may taste the bread that will never let  
them know hunger.

**May God's blessing be upon you.**

**May Jesus' love attend to you.**

**May the Holy Spirit sustain you until we meet again.**

\* *Three-Fold Amen*      TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*