



*August 25, 2024*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

"Have faith in God, He cannot, He will not fail you."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / For Confirmation

August 25, 2024  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by Psalm 84

O Holy one of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

**We long to be in your beautiful assembly. Our hearts sing for joy!**

O Holy one of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

**You keep the sparrow and the spring. You sustain the splendor of creation.**

O Holy one of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

**In you, we go from strength to strength. You hear our prayers, bestow blessings and honor, and withhold no good thing. Praise our God!**

\* *Invocation*

Lovely God, you abide with us. We acknowledge your presence among us with peace, trust, and thanksgiving. It is good to be with you. It is good to be with one another. Fill us with your Spirit and revel in our worship. May this time give you honor and fortify us as your people, your ambassadors, and your agents of love and hope in the world. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*      *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

*Mt Hope PH #15*

*Greenfield CH #210*

*Grace TH #8*

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

Gracious and Holy God, speak to us. So often our prayer time is consumed by our words...when what we need most is your gentle nudges and your bold challenge. Let us hear from you.

<Moment of silence>

**As you continue to speak, prepare our hearts and minds to receive your wisdom, correction, and confirmation. Transform us for your glory, for our hope, and for the world. Amen.**

### *Words of Grace*

Beloved, even when God seems silent, God is still speaking, listening, and moving in our lives. Know that with every moment of attention, we center upon the Holy One is faithful stewardship of our time. God, the Redeemer, will honor our seeking, trusting, and listening with blessing, hope, and grace. Amen.

### *Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 84 NRSV**

#### **The Joy of Worship in the Temple**

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints,

for the courts of the Lord;

my heart and my flesh sing for joy

to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home

and the swallow a nest for herself,

where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O Lord of hosts,

my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house,

ever singing your praise.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> As they go through the valley of Baca,

they make it a place of springs;

the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength;

the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;

give ear, O God of Jacob!

<sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the Lord withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts,  
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**John 6:56-69 NRSV**

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

**TH #497**

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in a synagogue at Capernaum.

*The Words of Eternal Life*

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*    “*O Jesus, I Have Promised*”

*Mt Hope PH #218*

*Greenfield CH #676*

*Grace TH #271*

*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

**Strong and Giving God, receive our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources for the building of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. May we give with a spirit of courage, trust, and empathy. May our faithful stewardship receive confirmation through changed lives and renewed communities for your glory. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

*“Wonderful Words of Life”*

*Mt Hope VH #168*

*Greenfield CH #406*

*Grace VH #168*

\* *Benediction*

Go in peace,

Holding onto steadfast hope in a God who does good things

Who calls us as ambassadors and witnesses to the kingdom

Who sustains and supplies us

Whose work is done through our hands, our voice, and our lives

And who remains with us now and forever.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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*For Confirmation: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth 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.