



*August 27, 2023*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Sunday Morning Meditation*

The reason the Bible doesn't give us a list of behaviors that, if kept will guarantee us a spot in heaven is because the forty-four authors of Scripture understood that mankind needs a savior, a Messiah, not a to-do list..

– Andy Stanley  
How Good Is Good Enough? (2003)

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

August 27, 2023  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by Psalm 138

Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

**We bow down in reverence as we, the temple of the Living  
God, gather for worship.**

Sing praises with your whole heart!

**We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.**

Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

**We listen in anticipation for the Sovereign One remembers  
God's people.**

\* *Invocation*

God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you. You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love. May our time together in this space, online or onsite, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love. We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*    "*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*"

*Mt Hope VH #12*

*Greenfield CH #11*

*Grace VH #12*

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

**Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to  
this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from  
you. We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise  
of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle**

**nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine crafting. We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life. Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be.**

### *Words of Grace*

The One who created you knows your struggles. God is still speaking, renewing, and transforming. God's grace is still sufficient and made new each and every day. God has faith in you and abides with you in the journey of new life and transformation.

### *Old Testament Reading*

**Exodus 2:1-10 NIV**

#### *The Birth of Moses*

**2** Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, **2** and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. **3** But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. **4** His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

**5** Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. **6** She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

**7** Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

**8** "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. **10** When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

*A Living Sacrifice*

**12** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*Humble Service in the Body of Christ*

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 16:13-20 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

*Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah*

<sup>13</sup>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup>Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in

heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

*“Be Still, My Soul”*

*Mt Hope PH #77*

*Greenfield CH #712*

*Grace TH #87*

*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

**Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kingdom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

*“Amazing Grace”*

*Mt Hope* VH #77

*Greenfield* CH #343

*Grace* VH #77

\* *Benediction*

As you go, take the keys of heaven with you. Unlock hope in a world in need of encouragement. Loose joy where there is despair. Give peace room to grow. Release love with every encounter. And the God of hope, joy, peace, and love will be with you.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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**Identity:** Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.