



August 29, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Centering Meditation

We all live by rules, but the rules we live by come from many sources. Where they come from says a lot about how serious we need to be about keeping them.

Lewis Smedes
Choices (1986)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
14th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 17

August 29, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

“Arise, my fair one, and come away,” says the Lord.

We come gladly, for every good gift comes from above.

The season of singing is upon us.

The scent of myrrh, aloe, and lavender fills our senses.

“Arise, my fair one, and come away,” calls our God.

We come to worship with joy and thanksgiving.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

Mt Hope VH #86

Greenfield CH #295

Grace VH #86

Prayer of Invocation

Creator God, You have loved us passionately into being. We come today seeking your presence and to know we are your beloved!

Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts that we may look into your loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us.

Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love as we gather as your Beloved Community.

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, you call us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only. You call us to love the world with your passion, and to let that love be expressed in justice, forgiveness, peace.

Forgive us when our hearts are constricted with fear and do not let your transforming grace open us to the world you cherish. Forgive us when we honor you only with our lips and not with our actions.

Silence

Words of Assurance

Holy One, in Christ you have shown us the way into your Beloved Community of mercy, love and peace, in which you are making all things new. We come to affirm our covenant and sacred promise to be in loving relationship with you. Thank you for giving us life. Open us, body, mind and spirit to your truth. Fill us with your grace so we can fall in love with your world and offer—and experience—forgiveness, reconciliation and hope.

Epistle Reading

James 1:17-27 NIV

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Listening and Doing

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 NIV

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

TH #497

That Which Defiles

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn* “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”
Mt Hope VH #403 Greenfield CH #665 Grace VH #403

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

God of light, every generous act of giving and every perfect gift comes from you. May the offering we bring before you this day testify to who we are and whose we are. And may the gifts of our hands reflect the bounty of your harvest in our lives. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“Ring the Bells of Heaven”

Mt Hope VH #413

Greenfield Insert

Grace VH #413

* *Benediction*

Go back into the world assured of God’s love for you and for us all. Go back into the world with joy and energy to create God’s Beloved Community wherever you are.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*