



August 8, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Centering Meditation

The “I am” passages [of John’s Gospel] may be Jesus’ poetic expressions of ... a mystical experience in which his personality and ego fell away and the only reality he sensed was that of God. If this is how we understand the passages, then when Jesus said “I am the way ... no one comes to the Father, but by me”, this may mean that the way to God is to become one with God, as Jesus did. It may mean that we do not get to God through dogma or doctrine, but rather through mystical union with God, an experience shared by mystics of many religions throughout history.

Jim Burklo

Musing :The Bible and Religious Pluralism
The Center for Progressive Christianity web site

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
11th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 14

August 8, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

(Psalm 130 and John 6:35)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

**We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of
my supplications!

**We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God, my soul
waits,

**We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,
more than those who watch for the morning:

**We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus,
and we thirst for you, O God.**

* *Opening Hymn*

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Mt Hope VH #273

Greenfield CH #682

Grace VH #273

Prayer of Invocation

God of Healing and Transformation,

we hunger and thirst for your abundant life.

we bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy;

we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope;

we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration.

Meet us here. We need the bread of heaven to sustain us for our journey to find our way, that we may be one with you. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, We confess that we continue wars in our holy human family even though we know they cause unspeakable suffering. Like David, who wept for Absalom, his lost son, we are filled with sorrow for all the children in our human family who die in war. We see our advanced weapons kill and maim children and yet still we do not find the ways to peace. Forgive us.

(Moment of silence)

Words of Assurance

Holy One, you make all things new; your mercy is new every morning, let our cries of sorrow: "O our children, O our children", herald the way to compassion and courage as we work for peace.

Amen.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2 NIV

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin"^[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

John 6:35, 41-51 NIV

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

TH #497

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

⁴³ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“O Worship the King”

Mt Hope VH #24 *Greenfield* CH #104 vs 1-3,5

Grace VH #24

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 love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

"To God Be the Glory"

Mt Hope VH #4

Greenfield CH #56

Grace VH #4

* *Benediction*

Jesus said, I am the bread of life. May we go forth nourished by the bread of life within us. Our spiritual hunger and thirst is satisfied when we honor the God within us. Life is short. Be kind to one another

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*