



*September 13, 2020*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Pastor  
Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist  
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*Centering Words*

*Sing to our God, who brings us into a future of hope and life.*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am

September 13, 2020  
Grace 11:00am

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Sing of God's mercy and grace.

**Sing of God's strength and might.**

Praise God with laughter and joy.

**Praise God with feasting and dance.**

For God protects the lowly  
and avenges the misdeeds of the mighty.

**God brings forth justice and righteousness,  
saving the weak from the cruelty of the powerful.**

Sing of God's mercy and grace.

**Sing of God's strength and might.**

\* *Opening Hymn*

**"Now I Belong to Jesus"**

*Mt Hope VH #179*

*Greenfield CH #501*

*Grace VH #179*

*Gathering Prayer*

Gracious God, renew our minds with the power of your Holy Spirit. Cleanse our spirits with the mercy of your grace. Bring us into fellowship with one another and grant us courage to defend the lowly. Part the waters of our troubled thoughts, that we might see others as you see them. Protect us with your powerful hand, that we might sing of your faithfulness and dance to your glory. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession*

Merciful God, we are ever in need  
**of your grace and your mercy.**

When we have injured your little ones,

**forgive us.**

When we have laughed at others' misfortunes,

**pardon us.**

When we have belittled the weak,

**humble us.**

Help us walk the trials of life

**with your powerful hope and your loving grace. Amen.**

### *Words of Assurance*

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,  
the forces of death would have devoured us whole.

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,  
we would have fallen to the sword or been drowned by the sea.

Dance and sing to the Lord,  
who is on the side of all God's children.

### *The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

\* Doxology

\* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**Merciful God, transform this offering into hope and joy for a  
troubled world. Receive the blessings we return to you this day,  
and transform our ministries into instruments of your grace.**

**Through our giving, may places of sorrow and mourning know  
the sound of love and laughter. Through our living, mold us into  
your people – a people of promise and hope. Amen.**

### *Epistle Reading*

*Romans 14:1-12 NIV*

#### *The Weak and the Strong*

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup>One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup> Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. <sup>11</sup> It is written:

“As surely as I live,” says the Lord,  
“every knee will bow before me;  
every tongue will acknowledge God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 18:21-35 NIV**

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

**TH #497**

*The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

*Meditation Hymn*      “I Love to Tell the Story”

*Mt Hope* VH #401

*Greenfield* CH #444

*Grace* VH #401

*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

*\* Closing Hymn*      **“Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul”**  
*Mt Hope VH #259      Greenfield CH #510      Grace VH #259*

*\* Benediction*

As you go forth from this place,  
**plunge into the waters of life unafraid,**  
**for God goes with us.**  
Move forward in life with purpose and passion,  
**for Christ is our guide and guardian.**  
Live as people of powerful hope,  
**for the Spirit renews us each and every day.**  
**Go with God’s blessings.**

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

*\* Three-Fold Amen*

*\* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*      TH # 558

*\* Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*