



*September 20, 2020*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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### *Centering Words*

*It was with good reason that God commanded through Moses that the vineyard and harvest were not to be gleaned to the last grape or grain; but something to be left for the poor. For covetousness is never to be satisfied; the more it has, the more it wants. Such insatiable ones injure themselves, and transform God's blessings into evil.*

*Martin Luther*

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

September 20, 2020  
Grace 11:00am

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

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Our eyes are heavy.  
Our hope is soaring.  
We wait in the marketplace.

**Our God is gracious.**

Our feet are tired.  
Our expectations rise.  
We are hired first.

**Our God is merciful.**

Our backs are sore.  
Our spirits are low.  
We are paid last.

**Our God is slow to anger.**

Our tempers flare.  
Our anger rages.  
We take what belongs to us.

**Our God abounds in steadfast love.**

\* *Opening Hymn*    “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

*Mt Hope PH #461*

*Greenfield CH #797*

*Grace TH #434*

*Gathering Prayer*

Call all the laborers, O God,  
Call your laborers who woke early,  
Call your laborers who came late,  
Call your laborers who feel wronged,  
Call your laborers who feel overlooked,

Call your laborers who have no employment,  
Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage,  
Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,  
Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love,  
Call all your laborers, O God,  
Tell us to roll up our sleeves  
For we know that we have work to do.  
Let us find you in the work we share here and now,  
in Christ's presence we pray. **Amen.**

### *Prayer of Confession*

Paul tells his churches: “Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,…” Let us spend a quiet minute reflecting on where we have failed to “strive side by side”...for the Gospel.

*Silence*

### *Words of Assurance*

Beloved in Christ rejoice!  
In grace and mercy, God abounds in steadfast love  
Forgives us, and sets us free to grow in grace.  
Bless God's name forever!

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

Offertory Statement

\* Doxology

\* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**O God, you have called your laborers to give their gifts.**

**Bless these offerings so that they reflect the work of the kingdom of heaven. With Christ, our servant, we pray.  
Amen.**

*Epistle Reading*

*Philippians 1:21-30 NRSV*

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Matthew 20:1-16 NRSV**

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

**TH #497**

*The Laborers in the Vineyard*

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about

five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

*Meditation Hymn* "God Will Take Care of You"

*Mt Hope* VH #281

*Greenfield* CH #692

*Grace* VH #281

*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*                      “*Victory In Jesus*”  
*Mt Hope* VH #509                      *Greenfield* CH #353                      *Grace* VH #509

\* *Benediction*

Let us continue in our work.

**Let us live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

Let us be in one spirit, striving side by side,

**Let us find Christ in our struggles,**

Let us be surprised by the joy in our faith,

**Let us find you, O God, in all our work. Amen.**

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*