



September 27, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Mrs. Wendy F.

Pianist
Sylvia O.

Centering Story

Clara Barton, the founder of the Red Cross, was reminded one day by a friend of an especially cruel remark that someone made to her years before. When Clara didn't seem to respond, the friend queried, "But don't you remember?" Barton replied: "No, I distinctly remember forgetting it."

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

September 27, 2020
Grace 11:00am

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.

Our God is among us.

Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.

Our God moves among us.

Watch and listen, for God is here.

Our God dwells among us.

* *Opening Hymn*

“Rock of Ages”

Mt Hope VH #275

Greenfield CH #342

Grace VH #275

vs 1,3,4

vs 1,3,4

Gathering Prayer

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate,

God, the merciful, holy, blessed:

Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.

Lift us into consciousness of your presence.

Change us, move us, mold us for the better;

So that, at the sound of your voice

At the call of our name

We will never be the same.

May this worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Called to follow Christ, we are called to a life of humility.

But what does that even mean?

Do we seek to exalt ourselves – to be lifted above others?

Does our sense of success depend on someone else's failure?

Does our love of God entirely guide our relationships?

Do we twist service into convenience and leisure,
ignoring the idea that to serve is to be a servant?

Silence

Let us pray:

Disturb the habits of our sin, O God.

Rouse us from the sleep that cradles sin's embrace.

In the name of Jesus, we pray –

Show us your ways

Highlight what we can change

And change what we cannot.

Silence

Words of Assurance

Good friends:

God is at work in you!

God is alive in us!

God lives – but sin is dead.

And our sins are forgiven, through Christ, our Savior.

Alleluia! Amen.

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

* Doxology

* Offertory Prayer

TH # 551

**These gifts represent the best of ourselves, O God – we attest,
with joy, that we can do no better. Receive them with our
prayers. Take and use them for your goodness. In the
name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Imitating Christ's Humility

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 21:23-32 NIV

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

TH #497

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Meditation Hymn

“Just As I Am”

Mt Hope VH #422

Greenfield CH #488

Grace VH #422

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* *"Open My Eyes, That I May See"*
Mt Hope VH #156 *Greenfield* CH #563 *Grace* VH #156

* *Benediction*

The sweet Spirit of God has blessed us! Let us give thanks.

Thank you!

The great Spirit of God will guide us! Let us give thanks.

Thank you!

The humble Spirit of God is with us. Let us give thanks.

Thank you!

And may the blessed, eternal Trinity
grant you the peace the world cannot give, now and forever.

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*