



*September 11, 2022*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

“A lost coin is found by means of a candle; the deepest truth is found by means of a simple story.”

– Anthony de Mello

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ      September 11, 2022  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am                      Grace 11:00am  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 'A Blistering Wind'

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Come, Beloved of God, the blistering wind of life is not the end.

**May the eye of the storm still us into wholeness and hope.**

May the wind of God, turn us around toward trust in Holy promises.

**May our promises to God be pressed anew into our hearts and minds.**

May everything of excess be released and refined for Love's good work.

**May God's vision of a world made new arise from God's wind in and through us.**

\* *Invocation*

*(Remembering 9/11)*

O Holy Wind of God, sweep through our lives. Pause us into your presence, slowing our breathless pace. Refine in us a renewed willingness to bear gracious goodness into the chaos of the world. Let our memories on this day, call forth an alternative to the easy response of violence for violence. Form instead a steady commitment to return love in the face of fear, hope in the midst of despair, and mercy for every brokenness of the world's design. By this, form anew the heart and mind of Christ in us, here, now, today.

\* *Opening Hymn*

**"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"**

*Mt Hope PH #345*

*Greenfield CH #169*

*Grace TH #7*

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life*

*(Based on Psalm 51)*

**O God, have mercy on me because transgressions and wrong turns have too often been my daily detour. Wash me inside and out with the shower of Your love because my life carries a residue of regret I cannot shake loose on my own. I know myself too well, rehearsing littleness of spirit with a frequency surprising even to me. Now take every burden that crushes and form in me a new creation. Take every iniquity and instill your sweet song of forgiveness. Let your wisdom rise in my mind and your mercy in my heart that I may offer the same grace to others whom you also love. By this grace you give, mend not only me but the world. And may Your loving truth form a new creation in us all.**

*Words of Grace*

Hear this good news: God's memory of our misdeeds and misdirection is short. But God's loving grace is long and stretches over our whole lives. In Christ Jesus, God has let loose a stream of love that perpetually flows as a patient, persistent, power. By this, God has forgiven us and invites you and me to join in the journey of justice and joy. May this blessed forgiveness multiply itself in our life with others. Thanks be to God!

*First Reading*

*Judges 11:29-40 NIV*

<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites. <sup>30</sup> And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD: "If you give the Ammonites into my hands, <sup>31</sup> whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the LORD's, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering."

<sup>32</sup> Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into his hands. <sup>33</sup> He devastated twenty towns from Aroer to the vicinity of Minnith, as far as Abel Keramim. Thus Israel subdued Ammon.

<sup>34</sup> When Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah, who should come out to meet him but his daughter, dancing to the sound of timbrels! She was an only child. Except for her he had neither son nor daughter. <sup>35</sup> When he saw her, he tore his clothes and cried, “Oh no, my daughter! You have brought me down and I am devastated. I have made a vow to the LORD that I cannot break.”

<sup>36</sup> “My father,” she replied, “you have given your word to the LORD. Do to me just as you promised, now that the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the Ammonites. <sup>37</sup> But grant me this one request,” she said. “Give me two months to roam the hills and weep with my friends, because I will never marry.”

<sup>38</sup> “You may go,” he said. And he let her go for two months. She and her friends went into the hills and wept because she would never marry. <sup>39</sup> After the two months, she returned to her father, and he did to her as he had vowed. And she was a virgin.

From this comes the Israelite tradition <sup>40</sup> that each year the young women of Israel go out for four days to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 15:1-10 NIV

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

TH #497

*The Parable of the Lost Sheep*

**15** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

### *The Parable of the Lost Coin*

<sup>8</sup>“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

#### \* *Gloria Patri*

#### *Children's Message*

#### \* *Meditation Hymn*

“*Softly and Tenderly*”

*Mt Hope* VH #420

*Greenfield* CH #479

*Grace* VH #420

#### *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

**O Love, stretch wide my heart, open my mind, saturate my soul and form me anew in the gift of this day. Let thanksgivings rise for miracles you place in my path at every turn. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*                      “Ring the Bells of Heaven”  
*Mt Hope* VH #413              *Greenfield* FHP #28              *Grace* VH #413

\* *Benediction*

May the wind of God be strong in you. May it be neither too little nor too much for the gift of each day that is your life. May it be strong enough to deepen your root in God. May it be gentle enough for you to catch the breath of life. May it teach you how to breathe the grace and peace of Christ into the life of the world, multiplying this blessing over and over again. Blessings on you, beloved of God!

\* *Three-Fold Amen*    TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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A **Blistering Wind**: Service Prayers for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 19 were written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ.