



September 12, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
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Organist
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Centering Meditation

"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate."

Sandy Dahl
wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl
in Shanksville, PA in 2002

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ September 12, 2021
Joint Service @ Grace 11:00am
16th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 19
20th Anniversary of 9/11

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Come if you have a weak faith.

Come if you are convinced in the strength of your convictions.

Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.

Lead us into life, O God!

Come if you are chased by the demands of others.

Come if you feel threatened by a loss of security.

Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.

Lead us into life, O God!

Come if you need forgiveness.

Come if you need strength to forgive others.

Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.

Lead us into life, O God!

* *Opening Hymn*

“Give Me Jesus”

VH #320

Prayer of Invocation

Holy Wisdom of God, You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center.

Prayer of Confession

Christ calls on us to “lose our life in order to save it”; to “take up our cross and follow” in the ways of justice and peace. Like the disciples before us, we are often amazed and overwhelmed by this command. We close our ears to such challenge and our hearts to such risk.

Silence

Words of Assurance

God’s words and actions are never careless; in sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a companion, a source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom. In Christ we are forgiven all our failings and given strength to start again.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 8:27-38 NIV

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

TH #497

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

Remembering 9/11 Candle Lighting

Light the first – fifth candle:

...Hear our prayer, O God.

Let our cry come to you.

Light the sixth candle:

...Hear our prayer, O God.

Let us into the land of promise.

Light the seventh candle:

...Teach us to remember the words of Jesus.

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and all else will be added to you.”

Light the eighth candle:

...Hear our prayer, O God.

Save us from ourselves.

Light the ninth candle:

...Teach us to remember the words of Jesus.

“Forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Light the tenth candle:

...Teach us to remember the words of Jesus.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

ALL: To you, O God, be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

* *Meditation Hymn* **“Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus!”** VH #82

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

All-knowing God, teach us to use these gifts to create greater access, insights, and wisdom for people within and outside of these walls. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“God Will Take Care of You”

VH #281

* *Benediction*

Go forth, strengthened to do the work of Christ, sharing peace with justice, offering forgiveness building community; and inviting others to embark the journey into abundant life for all. Know that the God who created you, the Christ who redeems you and the Spirit who empowers you will be with you this day and ever more. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*