



September 15, 2024
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org
greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech
Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Morning Meditation

"Today when you're tempted to be annoyed by your children, remember that they're a gift from God designed to be a blessing to you."

AM Brewster
Truth.Love.Parent

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ September 15, 2024
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am
17th Sunday after Pentecost / Identity

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Inspired by Psalm 116

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

We love the Holy One, who has heard our cry, responds to our prayers, and abides with us through our distress.

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

We praise the Righteous One, who protects, provides, and prepares His people.

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

We worship the Radiant One, who walks before us in the land of the living.

* *Invocation*

Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship you. We have come to be in community with our neighbor. We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. We have come in grief and with hope. We come to gather in your name, to honor your presence, and to give you praise. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*”

Mt Hope VH #25

Greenfield CH #648

Grace VH #25

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Loving God, we confess that you are a God of transformation and a solid rock. We strive to be like trees planted by the water, steadfast and unmovable at the same time that we embrace your continuing creative acts in the world and in our lives. We struggle at times to know when to remain firm and when to progress forward. Infuse us with your wisdom and discernment along with courage and grace to be fully who you have created us to be.

Words of Grace

Beloved, God knows the journey that has shaped you, honors the efforts you have undertaken, and sustains you when you extend yourself forward. The Righteous One is merciful and grace filled. Creator delights in you. Be bold and encouraged for the Sovereign One believes in you and goes with you. Amen.

Epistles Reading

James 3:1-12 NRSV

Taming the Tongue

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. **4** Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. **7** For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, **8** but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. **10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 8:27-38 NRSV

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

TH #497

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸ And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹ He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* “Nearer, My God, to Thee”

Mt Hope PH #351
Today's Message

Greenfield CH #553

Grace TH #318

* *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

Generous God, may these gifts honor your name and your generous Spirit alive within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kingdom and our world. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“How Great Thou Art”

Mt Hope VH #505

Greenfield CH #147

Grace VH #505

* *Benediction*

May you reflect the goodness of God in the land of the living.

May you appreciate the beauty of God’s creation.

And may you know and be known in every encounter.

Rest in the identity of the Holy One as you go in the peace of your identity. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Identity: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.