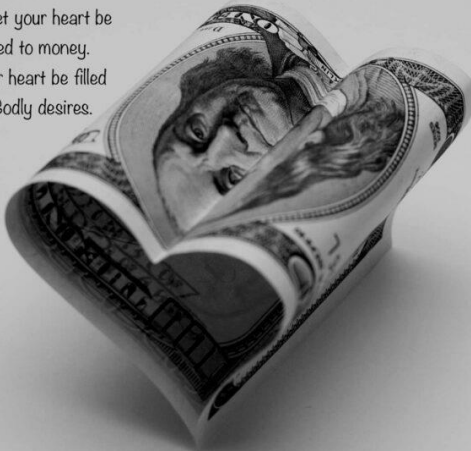


Do not let your heart be
inclined to money.
Let your heart be filled
with Godly desires.



You
cannot
serve God
and
money.

Luke 16:13

September 18, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Morning Meditation

“Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving.”

— James E Faust

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ September 18, 2022
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am
20th Sunday after Pentecost / ‘No Balm in Gilead’

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Divine Parent, you feel what we feel.

Our joys and our pains are yours too.

Divine Healer, you delight in our wholeness.

You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.

Giver of life, you are able to renew us

We open ourselves to you, have your way within us.

* *Invocation*

Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to you at any time. You have made it possible for us to come, as we are however, we are. We rejoice in knowing that you walk with us whether the road is rough or smooth. You are steadfast. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so that we may be a balm when none can be found. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Mt Hope VH #8

Greenfield CH #43

Grace VH #8

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

(Based on Psalm 51)

Source of Wholeness, we confess that sometimes our goals don’t always align with yours, and we get lost. At times, we have pursued power, knowledge, and wealth instead of you, who are the source of all. We know that you are the balm we need, and we turn ourselves towards you. You are steadfast in your love and justice. Help us to be the same, help us to be a balm to others as you are to us. Amen.

Words of Grace

The Divine one is steadfast in love, justice, and righteousness. Know that we are called and empowered to do the same. In a chaotic world, we can know peace, and in a chaotic world, we can be at peace. May God's grace be a balm for us, and may we be a balm to and for others. Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1 NIV

- ¹⁸ You who are my Comforter in sorrow,
my heart is faint within me.
- ¹⁹ Listen to the cry of my people
from a land far away:
“Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King no longer there?”
“Why have they aroused my anger with their images,
with their worthless foreign idols?”
- ²⁰ “The harvest is past,
the summer has ended,
and we are not saved.”
- ²¹ Since my people are crushed, I am crushed;
I mourn, and horror grips me.
- ²² Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then is there no healing
for the wound of my people?
- 9** ¹ Oh, that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
for the slain of my people.

Instructions on Worship

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 16:1-13 NIV

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

TH #497

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

¹ Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ² So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—⁴ I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶ “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

* *Meditation Hymn*

“More Love to Thee”

Mt Hope PH #400

Greenfield CH #634

Grace TH #471

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

**Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them.
Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to
share so that every need is met. May we always give from
wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a
balm of justice. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn*

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

Mt Hope VH #86

Greenfield CH #295

Grace VH #86

* *Benediction*

As you enter into everyday life again, let the balm you received be
the balm that you gladly share with others. Go forth in the
wholeness of God’s steadfast love. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

No Balm in Gilead: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost III were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ.