



“For he who is least
among you all
is the one who is
great.”

Luke 9:48

September 19, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Centering 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
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
17th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 20

September 19, 2021
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Jesus challenges us in today's gospel:

Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them:

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.

We are still learning today what Jesus came to teach us two thousand years ago. To change the world we must change the way we love and welcome all children!

May we learn to love all children as if they were our own!

All: Welcome, children!

* *Opening Hymn*

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Mt Hope PH #218

Greenfield CH #676

Grace TH #271

Prayer of Invocation

Dear God,

Jesus has called us to welcome children as a way to welcome you. So please, hear our voices as we welcome the children in our midst:

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

And please, dear God of compassion and justice, hear our voices:

With the presence of our children we welcome you!

Teach us the way to make the last first and to be servants of all. Guide us in your way of humility and service. Show us how to become disciples of Jesus Christ your Child and our brother. We ask for blessings on all your children in our holy family. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Dear God,

We often have not welcomed the children as Jesus has commanded. Too many children in our community and world suffer from violence, abuse, neglect, and poverty. We know that if we were to join together to welcome and care, to celebrate and honor our children, we would save ourselves and our world. We need forgiveness. We want to make amends. We want to change. We want to learn to welcome all children, for in loving and caring for them, we welcome your reign of justice and peace.

Words of Assurance

We give thanks for our savior and teacher Jesus Christ, who was born among us as a child needing nurture and care, and grew to reveal your power to make all things new. We give thanks and rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven and given strength to grow in discipleship. **Thanks be to God!**

Two Kinds of Wisdom

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Submit Yourselves to God

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 9:30-37 NIV

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

TH #497

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ³⁴ But they kept

quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message

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

Mt Hope PH #351

Greenfield CH #553

Grace TH #318

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

**God of love and service, we thank you for loving and
serving us through the grace of your Son, Christ Jesus.
Bless these gifts, that others may be loved and served in
our giving. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn*

“Jesus Loves Me”

Mt Hope VH #256

Greenfield CH #185

Grace VH #256

* *Benediction*

Go forth and welcome all God’s children, making the last, first,
and becoming a servant to all. Like Jesus, take a little child and
put her among you; take her into your arms, and remember,
whoever welcomes one such child welcomes God! Go forth to
change the world as Jesus has commanded by offering welcome,
justice and compassion to all children and to the “least of these.”
Go forth in God’s welcome and love.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*