



“...whoever does not  
carry their cross and  
follow me cannot be  
my disciple.”  
~ Luke 14:27

*September 4, 2022*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Morning Meditation*

“Discipline is a bridge built through everyday action.”

– J.R. Rim

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Like clay, we arrive at this time of worship:

**Shapeless and full of potential, we arrive.**

Like clay, we prepare for this time of worship:

**Stretched and twisted into formation, we prepare.**

Like clay, we enter this time of worship:

**Formed and ready for warmth, we enter.**

\* *Invocation*

Let us pray.

**Loving Creator, maker of everything good, we are in your hands. Be with us now as we gather ourselves to seek your wisdom and strive to become the people you would have us be.**

\* *Opening Hymn*

*"O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

TH #271

*Prayer for Confession*

Unlike clay, we actively resist the diverse ways you shape us into what the world needs. We frequently struggle to trust in your vision for who we could become. We anxiously avoid facing the heat that protects and sustains us. We humbly confess to these and all our shortcomings.

*<observe a brief stretch of silence>*

*Assurance of Grace*

God graciously chooses us despite our self-destructive ways. God repeatedly mends our broken places and unceasingly delivers us from harm toward wholeness. All thanks be to God!

*At the Potter's House*

<sup>1</sup>This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup>But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

<sup>5</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to me. <sup>6</sup>He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup>If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, <sup>8</sup>and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. <sup>9</sup>And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, <sup>10</sup>and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

<sup>11</sup>“Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’”

*Psalm*

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 NIV**

- <sup>1</sup>You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.  
<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.  
<sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.  
<sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.  
<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.

- 13 For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts,<sup>[a]</sup> God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 14:25-33 NIV

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

TH #497

*The Cost of Being a Disciple*

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*      “*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*”      VH #328

*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

**Holy Giver of all Gifts, we thank you for this opportunity to share our gifts and participate in the various ministries you've placed before this faith community. Bless these monies and each one of us as we go back out to continue your work in the world. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

“Jesus Saves!”

VH #388

\* *Benediction*

Before your birth, you were wonderfully and fearfully formed. Like clay, may God continue to reform and reshape you into your truest self, now and every day after. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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*Like Clay: Service Prayers for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Phiwa Langeni, the Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement for the UCC's CARDD and the Founder of Salus Center in Lansing, MI.*