



*September 5, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Centering Meditation*

*The first and highest, the most precious of all good works is faith in Christ.*

*Martin Luther*  
*A Treatise of Good Works (1520)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 18

September 5, 2021  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

**We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!**

\* *Opening Hymn*    “Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul”

*Mt Hope* VH #259

*Greenfield* CH #510

*Grace* VH #259

*Prayer of Confession*

Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,

You who taught thousands

And yet were willing to learn from the least of these,

We confess that we pretend to know

When in truth we still wonder.

**Forgive our pretense,**

**That we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers,**

**To fresh ideas,**

**To one another,**

**To you.**

Vulnerable Christ,  
You who lived in generous love,  
We confess that we have closed ourselves off,  
That we have seen so much suffering  
That we stop looking  
Rather than see and respond to those in need.

**Forgive our neglect  
That we may care for one another  
And follow in the example you set for us.  
In your name we pray. Amen**

<sup>w</sup>  
*Words of Assurance*

Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ, know that you are forgiven always and freed to begin anew through God's everlasting mercy and love.

*Epistle Reading*

**James 2:1-10, 14-17 NIV**

***Favoritism Forbidden***

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as

lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

### ***Faith and Deeds***

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 7:24-37 NIV

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

TH #497

### ***Jesus Honors a Syrophenician Woman's Faith***

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup> In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup> “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

<sup>28</sup> “Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

<sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

### ***Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man***

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn* "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

*Mt Hope PH #210*

*Greenfield CH #710*

*Grace TH #316*

vs 1-3

*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

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor, powerful and  
vulnerable alike in your image. Bless the gifts we have  
gathered today that we may use them to protect the  
afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

*“Make Me a Blessing”*

*Mt Hope VH #382*

*Greenfield CH #670*

*Grace VH #382*

\* *Benediction*

Disciples of our Christian faith,  
go now in great expectancy,  
knowing that teachers can be found  
in every corner of creation.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*