November 16, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

'*Idleness is the enemy of the soul. The mind that is not occupied with good is easily filled with evil.*'

St. Augustine of Hippo

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **November 16, 2025**
Mt Hope 8:30am **Greenfield 9:50am** **Grace 11:00am**
23rd Sunday after Pentecost / Gain Your Souls

Community News
Prayer List and Prayers of the People
Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship* *Inspired by Psalm 98*

O Sing to our Creator a New Song,
Make a joyful noise to God, everyone!
With trumpets and sounds of the horn
We create joyful sounds for you, God of love.
The hills will sing together in bliss.
Just as the sea roars and the artists rhyme, we serenade our Creator.

* *Invocation*

Beloved Divine Sustainer, like the sunlight, your presence illuminates the world around us. Like the air, your being invigorates us. Even when the world seems to be on fire, your quenching rain soothes our souls. Through your wisdom, we find our hope and strength. Fill our minds with your peace and our hearts with fortitude, knowing you will never depart from us. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"Lead On, O King Eternal"***

Mt Hope VH #394 *Greenfield* CH #724 *Grace* VH #394

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy Strength, at the signs of conflict in our communities and world, we cower instead of running towards the needs of our neighbors. We believe the end is near, but in actuality, this is another wave of dread coming from our fellow humans. Unfortunately, we can't simply wish this conflict away. Instead, you call us to walk through the fire and to use our voices. Forgive us when we want to stop instead of continuing to follow the way of Jesus. Give us grace to keep moving forward, even when betrayal and hate are raining upon us. Amen.

Words of Grace

Shame and despair will not overtake us. The grace of God sustains us from dawn until dusk and in the depths of the night. Amen.

Epistle Reading **2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 NRSV**

Warning against Idleness

6 Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. **7** For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, **8** and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. **9** This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. **10** For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. **11** For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. **12** Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. **13** Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

* The Reading of the Holy Gospel — Luke 21:5-19 NRSV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.) — TH #497

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned
with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, **6** "As for
these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone
will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

Signs and Persecutions

7 They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be
the sign that this is about to take place?" **8** And he said, "Beware
that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and
say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

9 "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for
these things must take place first, but the end will not follow
immediately." **10** Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against
nation and kingdom against kingdom; **11** there will be great
earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there
will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12 "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute
you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you
will be brought before kings and governors because of my
name. **13** This will give you an opportunity to testify. **14** So make up
your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, **15** for I will
give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be
able to withstand or contradict. **16** You will be betrayed even by
parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put
some of you to death. **17** You will be hated by all because of my
name. **18** But not a hair of your head will perish. **19** By your
endurance you will gain your souls.

* Gloria Patri

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* ***"O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"***

Mt Hope VH #403 *Greenfield* CH #665 *Grace* VH #403

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

Creator God, Source of All Energy, we see how your gifts transform the hearts, minds, and souls of this world. May your wisdom continue to strengthen our spirits. Through our gifts of treasures, talents, and time, we can serve your children, ensuring no one goes hungry and all are thriving. Through our endurance and compassion, may we build God's Realm here on earth. Amen.

* Closing Hymn *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

Mt Hope PH #8 *Greenfield* CH #90 *Grace* TH #21

* Benediction

As we work to faithfully follow God's call,
May the Christ illuminate the road ahead,
May the Spirit invigorate us throughout each day,
May our Creator soothe us and instill hope.
Beloved siblings, even as waves of fear crash over us, God never leaves nor forsakes us and brings us courage as we journey together. Amen!

* Three-Fold Amen **TH # 558**

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

Gain Your Souls: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.