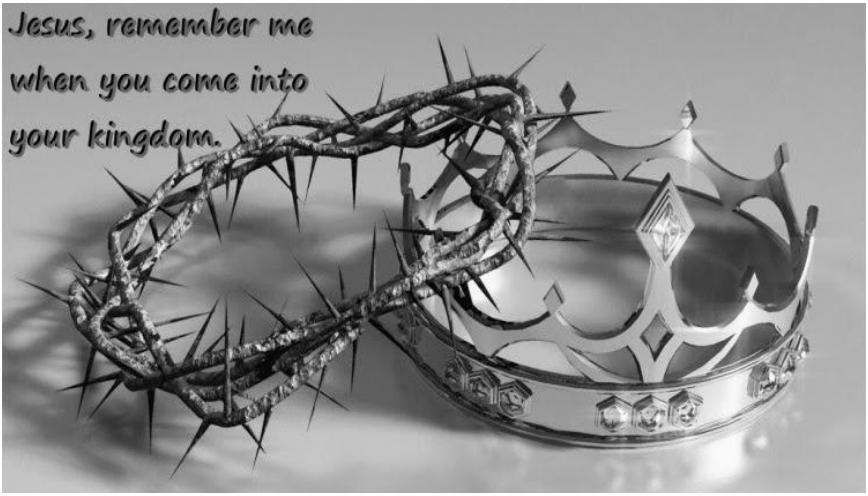

November 23, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org
greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com
Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Anneka Gribbin /
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech
Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Meditation

"On Calvary, the man who had nothing left but faith discovered that Jesus is enough."

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ November 23, 2025
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am
Reign of Christ Sunday / Today

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

* *Call to Worship* *Inspired by Psalm 46*

In this present time, no matter what passes before us,
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,
God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.
As the world trembles in fear and worry,
May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

* *Invocation*

Holy Redeemer, in the dusk of this liturgical year, we recall the beauty of our days together. The blessedness of Christmas love and the light of Epiphany move us to bring illumination to our neighbors. The hope of Easter and the strength of Pentecost inspire us to bring the Good News of God's love to this world. All of this is to create God's Realm here on this earth, where we follow the steps of Christ, knowing the endurance of the Holy Spirit abides with us today and always. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"***
Mt Hope VH #363 *Greenfield* CH #320 *Grace* VH #363

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Divine Grace, Jesus promises paradise to his neighbor on the cross. No matter what transgression the person had carried out, Jesus still promised a future filled with hope, mercy, and His love. And yet, even when we pray "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in

heaven," we like to limit paradise for our neighbors. We quietly ask: What have they done in their lives that they must ask for help, receive assistance, and lack health? Yet what we don't realize is that their misfortunes are not for us to judge. Beloved God, open our hearts wide to mercy - both in receiving and in extending it to others. May we shun judgment and open our hearts to a paradise here on earth where all your children can abide in peace and wholeness. Amen.

Words of Grace

Through the words and acts of Jesus, we experience peace, hope, and grace. God's love is beyond limits and will move us to open ourselves to the beauty of infinite mercy.

Old Testament Reading **Jeremiah 23:1-6 NRSV**

Restoration after Exile

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. **2** Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. **3** Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. **4** I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The Righteous Branch of David

5 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **6** In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm Reading **Psalm 46 NRSV**

God's Defense of His City and People

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah (pause and reflect)*

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."
11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel* **Luke 23:33-43 NRSV**

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

33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[**34** Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. **35** And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" **36** The soldiers also

mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine [37] and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" [38] There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

[39] One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" [40] But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? [41] And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." [42] Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." [43] He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* ***"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"***

Mt Hope PH #131 *Greenfield* CH #255 *Grace* Insert

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 All Time and Space, You call us to transform the world through the extension of your grace to all of creation. May we find new and creative ways to share our treasures, talents, and time in order to create your Realm here on earth. May we work to create paradise beginning here today. Amen.

* Closing Hymn ***"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"***

Mt Hope PH #345 *Greenfield* CH #169 *Grace* TH #7

* Benediction

As we transform our universe into God's paradise,
May the Spirit of Strength give us courage to care for our neighbors.
May the Christ of Mercy give us peace in each time and space.
May our Creator of Hope inspire us to love in new ways.
Fellow companions on this journey: we are called to build God's Realm, creating heaven on earth for all. Amen!

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

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

Today: Service Prayers for Reign of Christ Sunday was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.