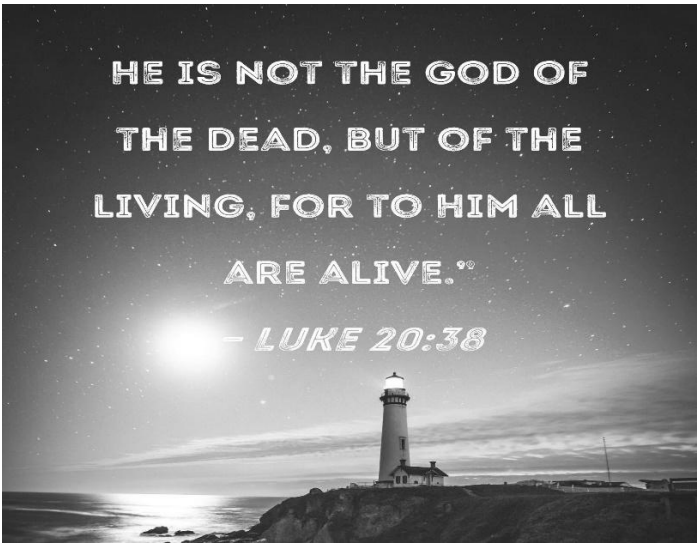

November 9, 2025
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Meditation

'The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom... It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven.'

N.T. Wright

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **November 9, 2025**
Mt Hope 8:30am **Greenfield 9:50am** **Grace 11:00am**
22nd Sunday after Pentecost / God of the Living

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

* *Call to Worship* *Inspired by Psalm 17*

Guard me as the apple of your eye, O God.
You wondrously show us your steadfast peace
Hide me in the shadow of your wings, Divine Spirit.
You wondrously show us your steadfast strength.
I behold your face in righteousness, Christ of Hope.
You wondrously show us your steadfast love.

* *Invocation*

God of Love, Divine Traveler, we see only a fraction of your presence, God. We know you only in part, as we experience this world with our senses, our experiences, and what is tangibly in front of us. How does the sacredness of each earthly breath draw us closer to your presence on this side of Heaven? May we grasp the beauty of this world, even on the gloomy days. May we cherish our relationships here on earth even when times are challenging. May we know that God is forever present with us and will care for us as we arrive at our eternal home on the other side of Heaven. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"***

Mt Hope PH #15 *Greenfield* CH #210 *Grace* TH #8

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of the Heavenly Winds and Earthy Air, so often, we concern ourselves about the afterlife. We wonder who will be there, what we need to believe, and more. Yet, on this side of heaven, in your earthly Realm, there are many still hurting from the pains accumulated in this life. From illnesses to poverty, and from the lack of kindness to the overwhelming injustices, we overlook the needs of our siblings. Open our hearts to the gaps happening in our world. Allow us to be more compassionate and less judgmental about our neighbors who need additional help. Help us to set aside our worries about the afterlife as we know you will care for us there and then. Amen.

Words of Grace

Even when we are overwhelmed by our thoughts of life after death, God shares hope. May God's grace transform us here in this world as we build the Realm of God here on earth. Amen.

Old Testament Reading **Job 19:23-27 NIV**

23 "Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
24 that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
25 I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
26 And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
27 I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

Psalm Reading **Psalm 17:1-9 NRSV**

♫ Sing to the tune of *Amazing Grace* ♫

1 Lord, hear my plea, attend my cry; unto my prayer give heed.
My righteous plea does not from false, deceitful lips proceed.

2 Let vindication of my cause proceed, O Lord, from You;
Your eyes see what is right, so give my vindication due.

3 Though You may probe my heart at night, or test me deep within;
You will find nothing, for I vowed my mouth would never sin.

4 As for men's deeds, I've kept myself from all their violent ways;
It's by the word of Your own lips I've stayed within Your ways.

5 My steps have held fast to Your path; I've walked within Your way;
And my feet have not slipped, for on Your path I vowed to stay.

6 I call on You, and trust, O God, that You will answer me;
Give ear to me and hear my prayer, incline Your ear to me.

7 Show me Your wondrous steadfast love: You save by Your right hand
all those who take refuge in You from foes that 'gainst them stand.

8 Keep me as safe as You would keep the apple of Your eye;
And in the shadow of Your wings, allow me safe to hide,

9 From wicked ones who trouble me, who do my soul surround,
From all my mortal enemies who compass me around.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel* **NRSV**

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

The Question about the Resurrection

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to
him **28** and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a
man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry
the widow and raise up children for his brother. **29** Now there were seven
brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; **30** then the second
31 and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died
childless. **32** Finally the woman also died. **33** In the resurrection, therefore,
whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

[34] Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given
in marriage, [35] but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age
and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in
marriage. [36] Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like
angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. [37] And
the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about
the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God
of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. [38] Now he is God not of the dead but of
the living, for to him all of them are alive."

* Gloria Patri

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* Meditation Hymn *"He Is So Precious to Me"*

Mt Hope VH #68 *Greenfield* FHP #208 *Grace* VH #68

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 Infinite Love, through our gifts, we create glimmers here on this side of Heaven. Through our treasures, time, and talents, we nurture your Realm. We provide for our neighbors who lack the basic necessities and who look for inclusion of their souls. May Heaven be a place that we can experience throughout our lives as we breathe the invigorating air of your Spirit. With gratitude, we celebrate our gifts from you and dedicate our gifts to bring peace to this earth. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* ***"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"***

Mt Hope Insert *Greenfield* CH #624 *Grace* Insert

* *Benediction*

As we abide together on this side of Heaven,
May the Christ of Hope lead us to righteousness and justice,
May the Spirit of Strength fill our hearts with courage,
May God, our Joyful Creator, graciously settle our hearts with peace.
May we find ourselves on journeys seeking glimmers of paradise and the presence of the Divine among us. Amen.

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

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

God of the Living: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.