July 12, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

"The birthright was lost not because it was taken, but because it was no longer treasured."

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **July 12, 2026**
Mt Hope 8:30am **Greenfield 9:50am** **Grace 11:00am**
7th Sunday after Pentecost | Granted Prayer

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

** Call to Worship* *inspired by Psalms 119 and 65*

Praise is due to the Holy One, whose ways are the joy of our hearts.

The Faithful One holds our lives and our hands. Happy are we who praise the Holy One!

Worship is due to the Holy One, whose revelation illuminates our path.

The Just God is righteous. Happy are we who follow the Holy One!

Love is due to the Holy One, whose compassion, peace, and strength satisfies the prayers spoken and unspoken.

The Sovereign God answers prayer. Happy are we who love the Holy One!

** Invocation*

God who gathers us together, we delight to be in community with you and one another. Let your word be proclaimed in truth. Let us burst into songs that reflect the depths of our spirits. May our prayers be formed in your name and granted by your wisdom. May we know you, Divine Mystery, and ourselves better and deeper because we have entered your presence as a community of faithful, questioning, and hope-seeking participants in your kingdom. Amen.

** Opening Hymn* ***"O Word of God Incarnate"***

Mt Hope VH #163 *Greenfield* CH #414 *Grace* VH #163

Prayer for Transformation of New Life

Holy One, we incline our hearts toward you, but the concerns of the world and challenges of daily living pull us away. Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, and your presence. Reorient us on the road of liberation, belonging, and communal care so that not only do we receive the gift of transformation, we companion with siblings, neighbors, and even enemies in your work of making all things new. Remove the misleading veil that disguises sufficiency with scarcity. Sustain us with being satisfied with enough and abundance materially while continuing to thirst for righteousness so that all may be well. In you, we hope and believe. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, rest in the assurance of Psalm 65:5, "By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas." The Holy One receives and responds to our prayers and offers the promise of renewed life and the power of community in the kingdom of God. Through Christ, we participate as witnesses, agents, and recipients of transformation for the glory of God and by the grace of God.

Old Testament Reading **Genesis 25:19-34 NRSV**

The Birth and Youth of Esau and Jacob

19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham
was the father of Isaac, **20** and Isaac was forty years old when he
married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-
aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. **21** Isaac prayed to the Lord for
his wife because she was barren, and the Lord granted his prayer,
and his wife Rebekah conceived. **22** The children struggled together
within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So
she went to inquire of the Lord. **23** And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;

the one shall be stronger than the other;
the elder shall serve the younger."

24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her
womb. 25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so
they named him Esau. 26 Afterward his brother came out, with his
hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty
years old when she bore them.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the
field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. 28 Isaac loved
Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Esau Sells His Birthright

29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the
field, and he was famished. 30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some
of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called
Edom.) 31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." 32 Esau said,
"I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33 Jacob said,
"Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to
Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate
and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his
birthright.

* *The Gospel Reading* **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NRSV**

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

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the
sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a
boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the
beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen!
A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a
path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on
rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang
up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun
rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered
away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and
choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth
grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have
ears, hear!"

The Parable of the Sower Explained

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. **20** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, **21** yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. **22** As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. **23** But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* **"*Spirit of the Living God*"**

Mt Hope Insert *Greenfield* CH #389 *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

Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. Amen.

* Closing Hymn ***"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"***

Mt Hope VH #682 *Greenfield* CH #273 *Grace* VH #682

* Benediction

May you drink from the wells of God's abundance
Nourished by the grace of God
Sustained by the truth of God
Hydrated by the promise of God
As you go, spread the good news and good gifts the Holy One bestows upon all.

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

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

***Granted Prayer*:** Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.