August 30, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **August 30, 2026**
Mt Hope 8:30am **Greenfield 9:50am** **Grace 11:00am**
14th Sunday after Pentecost | Beyond the Wilderness

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

* *Call to Worship* *inspired by Psalms 105*

O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am, who calls us together and makes their name known.
We glory in God's holy name! Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice and testify!
O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.
Sing praises to our God. Remember their wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.
O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who lends strength in the struggle and leads in righteousness.
Seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!

* *Invocation*

Sovereign God, we delight in your presence. Your words bring joy, peace, and strength. You fill us with your Spirit and shape us in truth. Take us beyond the wilderness of our current condition. Remind us of who you are and who we are in you. Receive our praise, our curiosity, our doubts, our fears. With thanksgiving, we come to you just as we are. In hope, we bring our dreams for a better world and better lives. In awe, we recount what you have already done. In faith, we invite you to equip us as your partners in your kingdom. Set a fire for your way and your will within us as we minister in your name. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"The Servant Song"***

Mt Hope Insert *Greenfield* CH #424 *Grace* Insert

Prayer for Transformation of New Life

Redeemer and Guide, we travel with you because you never leave us. Yet, sometimes we drift from the path of life you give us. Rather than holding fast to what is good, we compromise with evil. Rather than persevering in prayer, we dwell in anger, rage, and conspiracies. Rather than sharing our blessings and pursuing hospitality, we hoard the resources you have given us to share. Help us to live in love and harmony with one another. Empower us to pursue peace for all. Let us overcome and overwhelm evil with good, compassion, and hope in your name. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, wherever we go becomes holy ground because the Holy One goes with us. Be firm in hope that the God who met Moses through a burning bush will meet us wherever we may seek strength, encouragement, and the will to live in righteousness, justice, and peace. By the grace of the Holy One, all these things are possible in us and through us.

Old Testament Reading **Exodus 3:1-15 NRSV**

Moses at the Burning Bush

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a

good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. [9] The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. [10] Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." [11] But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" [12] He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

The Divine Name Revealed

[13] But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" [14] God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " [15] God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

* *The Holy Scripture* **Romans 12:9-21 NRSV**

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

Marks of the True Christian

[9] Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; [10] love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. [11] Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. [12] Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. [13] Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. [17] Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. [18] If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I

will repay, says the Lord." [20] Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* "***When Israel Was in Egypt's Land***"

Mt Hope PH #428 *Greenfield* NCH #572 *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

Holy One, we present these offerings to you in hope and love. May they be a gift in our community and the world. May they spread hope and love. And, may they witness to your abundant and generous creation. Amen.

* Closing Hymn *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

Mt Hope PH #263 *Greenfield* CH #403 *Grace* TH #324

* Benediction

Trust in God in the wilderness.
Hope in God through the wilderness.
Follow God beyond the wilderness.
With the assurance that God makes the ground holy,
Hears the cries of the people,
And comes near to the suffering,
Join the work of deliverance,
Believe in the possibility of a just world
And work toward its realization.
Go, in peace and determination,
To serve and love God and all creation.

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

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

***Beyond the Wilderness**: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth 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.*