September 27, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

St. Francis of Assisi

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ September 27, 2026
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am Grace 11:00am
18th Sunday after Pentecost | "The People May Drink"

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

* *Call to Worship* *inspired by Psalm 25*

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We trust you!
Make your ways known to us. Teach us your truths.
To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We will follow you!
Lead us in your ways. Your path liberates and saves.
To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We worship you!
Guide us in humility and goodness. Praise the Holy One!

* *Invocation*

Living Water, we delight in your presence. You sustain us in dry moments and seasons. Quench our thirst for word and revelation. Let your Spirit flow among us. Send a river of anointing, power, and encouragement in this assembly. We come to worship you and declare that you are with us…and we are with you. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"***

Mt Hope Insert *Greenfield* CH #225 *Grace* Insert

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy Presence, you demonstrate the way of love and community, yet so often we turn immediately to quarrels and complaints against one another and against you rather than helpful ways of communicating and confronting conflict. Teach us to be loving even as we struggle. Stir up compassion and accountability in our interactions. Remind us that you are with us even through tests, trials, and disappointments. Transform us with trust and care to be faithful and to seek you in prayer when we feel driven to quarrel and complain. Amen.

Words of Grace

The Holy One meets us with compassion and care even when we do not embody our best or strive for the goodness of God. Let us follow in the path of trust and faithful remembering of what God has done for us and how God has empowered us for transformation and new life.

Old Testament Reading **Exodus 17:1-7 NRSV**

Water from the Rock

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. **6** I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Psalm Reading **Psalm 25:1-9 NRSV**

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.

* *The Gospel Reading* **Matthew 21:23-32 NRSV**

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

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" **24** Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. **25** Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' **26** But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." **27** So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first
and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' **29** He
answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went.
30 The father[a] went to the second and said the same, and he
answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. **31** Which of the two did the
will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them,
"Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going
into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John came to you in
the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax
collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw
it you did not change your minds and believe him.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* "***Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart***"

Mt Hope VH #150 *Greenfield* CH #390 *Grace* VH #150

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 who Provides, as we present our offerings before you, sanctify them for your glory and magnify them for your people. Amen.

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

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

* Benediction

Go from this time of worship like streams of water,
Flowing from the abundance of the Living Water.
Saturate every encounter with the goodness and abundance of God
As a living witness that the people may drink.

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

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

The People May Drink*: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth 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.*