



February 25, 2024
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org

greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Mrs. Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech
Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist
Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Morning Meditation

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism."

- Pope Benedict XVI

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
2nd Sunday in Lent / 'Shame'

February 25, 2024
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Do not be afraid to answer the call to discipleship.

What does the call require?

Letting go of our life as we know it. Following the way of the cross. Aligning our soul with God's.

We step out in the way of Jesus by losing our life to save it.

Do not be afraid to walk in the way of Jesus.

We answer the call, unashamed and unafraid. Amen.

* *Invocation*

O God, we are offered every opportunity to embrace the path that helps us gain the world at the expense of our soul. Instead, you have called us to yourself and to follow in the way of love and compassion. Teach us about Jesus' way and lure us away from the paths of self-absorption and greed. You have called us to discipleship, to self-emptying, and embracing your way with courage. May it be so. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

Mt Hope VH #246

"Faith of Our Fathers"

Greenfield CH #404

Grace VH #246

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Holy God, like Peter, sometimes we think we know better than you do. We make our own attempts to save ourselves and others from the cross-filled path you have called us to walk. Help us to get behind you, because it has become easier to rely upon ourselves, rather than on your strength and presence. Grant us grace and help us to let go of our need for control so that you and your way might be our guide and path forward. Amen.

Words of Grace

Dear ones, may the God of compassion, Jesus the wounded healer, and the Holy Spirit who shapes and transforms us anew, grant you peace and hope for your soul. For we know that the One who calls us to follow in the way of Jesus is merciful and offers the consolation of love in a world of empty promises. Be at peace and thanks be to God. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 NRSV

The Sign of the Covenant

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴ “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Psalm Reading

Psalm 22:23-31 NRSV

- ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- ²⁴ For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.
- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
- ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
- ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
- ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 8:31-38 NRSV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* “*The God of Abraham Praise*”

Mt Hope VH #39

Greenfield CH #23

Grace VH #39

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

**Giving God, Jesus invited us to give our lives away, take up
our cross, and to follow. Rather than exchanging our souls,
may the sharing of these gifts nurture our commitment to
walk in your way. In the name and way of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.**

* *Closing Hymn*

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Mt Hope VH #113

Greenfield CH #87

Grace VH #113

* *Benediction*

We step out into a world offering us the power to gain the whole world, and yet the call to discipleship is one that is less of us and more of Christ. Go forth to serve, to embrace a life of humility, and to walk in the way of the cross. For such a path is the way of life. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Shame: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.