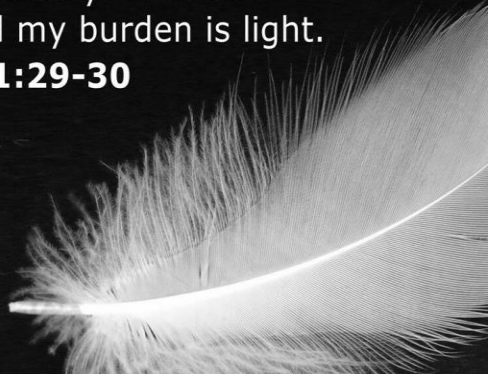


Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

**Matthew 11:29-30**

DailyVerses.net



*July 9, 2023*

*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Organist

Gary McIntyre (Grace)

### *Sunday Morning Meditation*

The more we see of Jesus, the more we know there's still so much to be seen. The more He touches our lives, the more we realize our desperate need for Him to consume every part of us.

– Matt Redman

*The Unquenchable Worshipper (2001)*

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Mt Hope 8:30am                      Greenfield 9:50am  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 'The Weary'

July 9, 2023  
Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

O Spirit of the First Song, the Origins of a Lullaby, we come here today with our burdens in tow.

**Would you grant us a comfort, O Gentle Jesus? Our pain has no place to land, no cradle for our sorrows to rock in.**

And say to us: *Yes, let it out. I've got you now. There, there, dear child, there, there.*

***There, there, to the rhythm of a heartbeat, like a grandmother consoling her kin. There, there.***

*There, there, like the psalmist singing in satisfaction. It's alright now. We made it home. There, there.*

***There, there, shouts the activist out in the streets. That's enough now, never again. There, there.***

For you are here, right here, ever with us—burden-sharer, light-maker, right here.

**And it is from this ancient hum that we worship you.**

One: It is from this rest that we know you.

**It is from such a place that we praise you, right here, again.  
Amen.**

\* *Invocation*

O God of Heaven and Earth, who is glorified in the wisdom of children—the experts of presence and oneness. May we evoke your humble heart within us. May we wonder what it might mean to feel our exhaustion *and* your love, at the exact same time. May we consider all you've tried to show, give, or say to us that we weren't yet ready for. Prepare our souls to yoke with yours, to share in the Good News that revives every living thing. We ask this in your name and energy, Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn*

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

*Mt Hope PH #246*

*Greenfield CH #8*

*Grace TH #4*

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life*

**Spirit of God, you are always among us, and yet at times we don't notice or get caught up in our judgments. Not recognizing you in the stranger on the street or the stranger in me—who does not do the things I want, but rather the things I hate. Perhaps we thought our certainty would keep us safe or ignorance would keep us pain-free, but you show us the way of trust and awareness is what paves the path of peace. Forgive and help us, O God, by the power, grace, and connection. Amen.**

*Words of Grace*

No matter the weight of our burdens or the age of our weariness, let us come before our rest-giving God. Rest for our shame and unbelief. Rest for our bootstraps, egos, and false idols. Rest to open us up to grace that says, *I feel so much better since I laid my burdens down.* Rest for the receptivity to our *yes*. Yes to forgiveness, yes to repair, and yes to being fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen.

*Psalm Reading*

**Psalm 145:8-14 NIV**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, LORD;  
your faithful people extol you.

<sup>11</sup> They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might,

<sup>12</sup> so that all people may know of your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who fall  
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*                      **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 NIV**  
*Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)*                      **TH #497**

<sup>16</sup> “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

<sup>17</sup> “‘We played the pipe for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge,  
and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

### ***The Father Revealed in the Son***

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

<sup>27</sup> “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn*      “*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*”

*Mt Hope* VH #160

*Greenfield* CH #405

*Grace* VH #160

*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

**What weights us down doesn't just disappear in the wind, but rather lightens because the load is shared. So, God of Our Yoke, may we prosper in solidarity. May what feels hard, be the "right" kind of hard—one that strengthens us in growth and connection. Let the cycle of suffering finally have its last day, and the Year of Jubilee begin with us. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*

**"Near to the Heart of God"**

*Mt Hope* VH #216

*Greenfield* CH #461705

*Grace* VH #216

\* *Benediction*

O God of Rejuvenation, may we leave this place feeling alive, awake, and made for this day. In you there is hope for satisfaction, while our hunger for justice remains everlasting. May we find strength in gentleness and relief to heavy loads. And may we carry your promise of refuge with us wherever we go. Amen.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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**The Weary:** Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost was written by The Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Learn more at [chsm.org](http://chsm.org).