

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Lent 2

"So much is out of our control."

March 13, 2022

8am and 10:30am

10:30 Baptism

GUESTS, Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, pastorkris@unionucc.org

NEW MEMBERS: To share your questions and interest in learning more about our church family, contact pastorkris@unionucc.org or call the church office to speak to her.

One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God's inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Reader: 8:00 Ron Pope, 10:30 Chrissy Shivok

Ushers: 8:00: Tom Anderson, Kerry Snyder

10:30am: Deidre Bilger, Carol James, Randy Bilger, Ruth Ruch, Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Todd McCoy, Laura Kohler

Sound: Karl Klinger

Thank you for wearing a mask and practicing
social distancing.

As you arrive, please visit the welcome tables to:

1. Pick up a paper bulletin of the service or you can view it on
your phone at :



2. Share your offerings. We will not be collecting your
offerings during the service. Please plan to share them at the
welcome table as you arrive or as you leave. Check out Ways
to Give online and by text as well. Thank you for your gener-
ous hearts.

Call in to listen to the service at 610-410-9595.

Email Marissa at administrator@unionucc.org if you would
like a bulletin mailed to you.

*Please stand in body or spirit

Music for Gathering

He Hideth My Soul Fanny Crosby & William Kirkpatrick
Blake Hoppes

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold

Leader: We continue our movement through the Lent season this
week with another kind of “letting go.” This week we lament that so
much in life is out of our control. This is frustrating to us and so
sometimes we have been tempted to believe the sayings that tell
us if we just “think positively,” we can turn it all around. Yet our ex-
perience tells us that this doesn’t always work. Let us turn ladder-
climbing toward the expectation of a perfect life into garden-
tending, nurturing “what is” and embracing our holy, good enough,
lives.

“Good Enough”

Soloist/Choir: What in our lives do we dream about for
tomorrow, void of sorrow?

Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays,
mistakes we made?
Sometimes we get what we get,
life disappoints us and yet,
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

ALL: REPEAT

Calling on God

Based on Psalm 27

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Holy One, Our Light and Salvation,
we call out to you,
sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.
Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths.
Open us this day to your grace and peace,
transform our frustrations
into simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: Even Jesus got dang frustrated when folks didn't behave as he would have liked. We probably aren't receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will always go our way. We run around in so many directions, trying to herd the chicks into some imagined semblance of perfect formation (have you ever tried to herd chicks?). What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be "just so" and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Psalmist: "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from feeling alone in fixing what feels oh so wrong with this world, inviting us to let go of the need to *be* God, so that we might recognize that God is *with* us, offering courage in difficulty.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Leader: How do we mean the words that we say: “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,

ALL: You are welcome here.

Leader: Let’s do all that we can to practice this greeting in word and action.

Let’s rise and stand in body or spirit for the first song as we greet each other.

***Opening Hymn/Song**

**Hymn # 1 For The Beauty of the Earth
Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God)**

ALL:

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**Children's Time Abby Bastidas & Jenna Hoffert
Pastors invite children forward.**

**Pastors invite children to leave with Ms. Tiffany for
Children's Church (in the basement).**

**Song: This, This is Where Children Belong
Congregation/All:**

The musical score is written for a voice part in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "This, this is where child-ren be - long, Wel- comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng. Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song, This is where child - ren be - long." The score consists of four lines of music. Above the first line are chords: F, C/E, Dm, Bb. Above the second line are chords: F/A, Gm, Am/C, C. Above the third line are chords: F, Gm, Am, Bb. Above the fourth line are chords: F/C, Bb, F. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth line.

**Parents and Families – your children will return to you
in the sanctuary by the end of worship.
If Children's Church is longer than worship, please
meet them in Room 7 in the Basement (the Preschool
Rooms).**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Tucker Dennis Christman, child of Larysa O'Neill and Sheldon Christman

After Worship:

Grayson Elysia Ruch and Rhiannon Eleanor Ruch,
children of Jessica Ellis and Barrett Ruch

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Celtic Mass
Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 8/8. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The second staff is also in treble clef with the same key signature and time signature. It continues the melody with similar note values and lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

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The Word in Music

10:30 Above All with When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Lenny Leblanc & Paul Baloche, Setting by Arnold B. Sherman
Horizon Choir

Gospel Reading Luke 13: 31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your

children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

A Word of God that is still speaking,
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith:
So much is out of our control Pastor Kris

Prayers of the People

SOLOIST/CHOIR: Though all along our daily pilgrim race
our treasures small and very few may be,
our souls are blest with God's unending grace,
and that is enough, enough for me.
Oh, that's enough for me,
God's truth has set me free;
the love of Christ has sanctified my soul,
and that is enough for me.

Leader: Sanctification, or the process of being set apart or made holy, is a theological concept that has been greatly debated over time—are we made holy in a once-and-done kind of way or are we always simply moving in that direction based on our merits? It is as if once the debate is settled, then we can know what to do and control the outcome of goodness for ourselves. And yet, if we worry less about our own sanctification and more on treating the world, the planet, and all the creatures, especially those who are suffering, as holy and worthy of our love, then we will be acting on what we *can* control, sharing what we have with others.

SOLOIST/CHOIR: When food and raiment are not ever sure,
and simple fare is hard to get for some,
we work to share our goods with one and all,
and that is enough, enough for me.
Oh, that's enough for me,
God's truth has set me free;
a love like Christ's is meant for ev'ry soul,
and that is enough for me.

The Prayer of Jesus

**ALL: 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, For ever. Amen.**

Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC

OFFERING ENVELOPES you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

ELECTRONIC GIVING This is a great time to try e-giving! Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out form at <http://www.unionucc.org/eqive.pdf> and send to financialmanager@unionucc.org

DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card

Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

AMAZON SMILE Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

This year the **Easter Mission Offerings** will be divided between the **Miller-Keystone Blood Center** and **Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley**. Please support these two mission organizations by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope marked - Easter Mission.

Give online at <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> for eEaster Mission.

Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to share them at the welcome table as you arrive or as you leave worship.

OFFERING PRAYER: Generous God,
in light of your extravagant blessings—
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—
we offer our gifts and ourselves,
and know that you transform what we plant
into the produce of love.
Amen.

MUSIC OFFERING
The Lord's Prayer
Blake Hoppes

Albert Hay Malotte

**A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone is
Struggling**

*“Blessed are you who see things clearly, where struggle is
everyone’s normal.*

*You walk among the fellowship of the afflicted, a club no
one wants to join.*

*And while this life isn’t shiny, it does come with
superpowers.*

*Superpowers of ever-widening empathy and existential
courage*

*that gets you back up after another fall
and a deepened awe at the beauty and love that can be
found amid life’s rubble.*

*Like flowers that grow from the cracks in the sidewalk.
These virtues blossom in you. And thank God for you.*

*Blessed are all of us who struggle, for we are in good
company, and we’ll never walk alone.”*

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially
when it's painful,
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising
ways,
go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

Choral Reprise

God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

***Closing Hymn/Song**

**Hymn #530 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?
Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)**

ALL:

- 1. Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.**
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road.
We are here to help each other go
the mile and bear the load.**
- 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the shadow of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**
- 5. When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

Postlude
Just As I Am, Without One Plea Tune: WOODWORTH
Blake Hoppes

Worship Notes:

Altar and Sanctuary Decorations: Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Tina Jarrett, Kathy Bonsell, Pastor Kris, Pastor Kayli

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EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	\$11,378.00
Calendar 2022 (Jan)	\$29,063.00
Calendar 2021 (Jan.)	\$30,541.00
Change from Last Year	-4.8%
Budget (July-Jan.)	\$255,250.00
Actual (July-Jan.)	\$253,847.00
Giving vs. Budget	-0.5%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

Attendance Last Week	
8:00 am	35
10:30 am (includes children)	85
Children's Church	29

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	368lbs, \$
Total YTD:	1708 lbs, \$185

Blanket Fund to Date:	\$2,378.00
LCCCL	\$772.45

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children's Bulletin.

Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.

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