

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Lent 3

"Lots of things can be medicine."

March 20, 2022
8am and 10:30am
YOUTH SUNDAY!!!

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: Youth

Ushers: 8:00: Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30am: Donna Christman, Brian Horwith, Deb Wenner, Dan Haftl, Maryann Puia, Eric Minnich, Gloria Toner, Carol Stout

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 generous 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

Your Story Words/Music by Ben Glover and Francesca Battiselli
Payge Haydt, viola

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold Connor McCoy

Leader: As we continue our look at what it means to release oppressive expectations about perfection in our lives and in our faith, this week we turn to a harmful idea that the prescription for our fear of failure is to simply work harder. As the book *Good Enough* reminds us, “We might feel we are climbing an ‘endless staircase’ of achievement, for high grades or success...[in] caregiving, work, or social pressure.” This Lent, we are taking some time to stop climbing ladders and staircases, to tend our souls slowly and lovingly, tilling the soil and fertilizer, 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 Noah Roth

Based on Psalm 63

Leader: Let us pray together:

**All: Holy One, Our Balm, Our Feast
we lift our hands and call your name,
in need of healing—thirsting and hungry.
Your steadfast love is better than life.
Open us this day to your nourishment
in the songs of the land, in the beauty of the sky—
in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

**Honest Questions, Compassionate Response
Naomi Henninger & Hannah Minnich**

Leader: In our Gospel scripture today, we will hear about the unproductive fig tree. Oh, the shame of being unproductive!

Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what's wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around.

But the gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the crappy stuff of life can help heal what ails us. Is this not sometimes productive enough? What productivity expectations are holding you captive?

Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from Isaiah: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money
and without price.”

[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough 2](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough2)

Know that already, God is offering us love enough
no matter how much we attain or achieve.

We are invited to release oppressive expectations of ourselves
and others so that we might recognize true worth afforded to
all. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps,
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

The Peace Katie Solt

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 rise and stand in body or spirit for the first song to
greet each other, and let’s do all that we can to practice this
greeting in word and action.

***Opening Hymn/Song**

Hymn #423 Great Is Your Faithfulness

Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)

**1. Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator
With you no shadow of turning we see
You do not change, your compassions they fail not
All of your goodness forever will be**

Refrain:

**Great is your faithfulness,
Great is your faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To you great faithfulness, mercy and love**

REFRAIN

**3.Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all min with ten thousand beside**

REFRAIN

**Children's Time
Pastors invite children forward.
Children's Message with Emily Mericle & Alexis Baron**

No Children's Church, Church Family Worship

Song: This, This is Where Children Belong

Congregation/All:

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. 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 chords are: F, C/E, Dm, Bb, F/A, Gm, Am/C, C, F, Gm, Am, Bb, F/C, Bb, F.

Voice

This, this is where child-ren be - long,

3 Wel-comed as part of the wor - ship - ping throng.

5 Wat - er, God's Word, bread and cup, pray'r and song,

7 This is where child - ren be - long.

The Word in Music

8:00 Heritage Choir: My Saviour and My God Jay Althouse

**10:30 High School Choir : The Secret of Happiness from
Daddy Long Legs Paul Gordon**

Gospel Reading Max Bilger

Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

A Word of God that is still speaking,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith:

Maggie Cygan- Parkland High School Senior

Graham Smith- Parkland High School Senior

10:30 Musical Offering

Draw Me Close Kelly Carpenter, Arr. Jack Schrader

High School Choir

Prayers of the People Ella Stanek & Payge Haydt

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: Often our religious debates within Christianity have focused on what makes us “worthy” of salvation... is it faith alone or the work that we do to follow rules and answer God’s call? Many have wanted an easy answer, “just tell me what I have to do to enter the kin-dom of heaven!” This week we have affirmed that God’s love and grace come without price and making ourselves sick with overwork is not the answer to what ails us.

And yet, God does call us to work together to alleviate the suffering of others. Why? Not so we can buy the golden ticket to eternal life, but so that all might know a heaven of help right here on earth.

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
Nolan Buskirk & Zane Roth**

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/egive.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
Graham Smith, cello

A Blessing for Slowing Down Eve Horvath

“...blessed are we who stop—okay, maybe not stop entirely, www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough 5 who are we kidding—but who slow down. We who discover rest and new life and renewal when we step off the treadmill (or at least turn it down). We who remember that the world keeps spinning without us. And thank God for that. We who remember we are loved, loved, loved. Just being us.”

Benediction Ryleigh Minnich

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, and you—without price, 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 # 459 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)**

**1. Come, O fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.**

**2. Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come
Come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home
Jesus sought me when a stranger,**

wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger,
blessed body, precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily
I am drawn a new
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Postlude

In The Presence of Jehovah Becky and Geron Davis

Worship Notes:

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

All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee ©
www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough. Used and
adapted with permission.

“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia
McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design
Studio.

“A Blessing for Slowing Down [excerpt]” from Good Enough:
40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler
and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the
book at www.katebowler.com/goodenough.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)	
Last Week	
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	
10:30 am (includes children)	120
Children's Church	23

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

Easter Mission to Date:	\$143.00
----------------------------	----------

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

Our Youth are awesome! Love Pastor Kris

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.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732

One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A714125