

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Lent 6

"You are a group project."

April 10, 2022

8am and 10:30am

Palm 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 are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Lay Reader: 8:00 **Sue Steinmann**, 10:30 **Eric Minnich**

Ushers: 8:00: Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson

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

Sound: Pat Sorg

Wearing a mask inside the building will now be optional.

For those who are not vaccinated against COVID-19, we recommend wearing a mask (as per CDC guidelines).

Singing - Close proximity while singing contributes to transmission of particulates. If you like to sing, please consider wearing a mask during those portions of worship. Our choirs will continue to mask when singing.

***Please stand in body or spirit**

Music for Gathering Blake Hoppes
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
Tune: Near the Cross William H. Doane

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold

Leader: We stand at the precipice of Lent and Holy Week. This day moves from shouting and praising to a time of crying and lament. The drama of the story of Jesus' last week reads like the book of our lives. Feeling hopeful one moment, we plummet the next as we deal with disappointment, danger, and grief. God's incarnation on earth was not immune from this roller-coaster we call life. One thing we know, when the going gets rough, the last thing on our minds is climbing the ladder of self-improvement. We just want to survive, to be comforted, to have our pain known and embraced. And so we turn from the isolation of perfection and turn toward deep love. It is never too late to nurture the garden of relationships, for we are all a group project.

“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 118

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Holy One, God of Goodness,
we call out to you at the Gates of Righteousness,
sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress—sometimes
both at once.**
**We long to be in your house in the presence of beloveds,
binding the festal procession with branches.**
**Open us this day to your love
in and through the webs of our relationships—
and in the simple and good enough moments that fill our
days.**
Amen.

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: Jesus orchestrated a low-budget parade into a city where he knew his days were numbered. “Get me a colt,” he said. Not a steed. Not a float. A young, green donkey (not the color, that’s horse-speak for not-ridden-alot-yet). And folks gathered and his friends started some liturgical shouting that ticked off the local priests. Life is hard and we all need friends and sometimes big, loud, praying that will not be messed with. We are created for interdependence. So all our hiding and pretending that we are “perfectly fine” all on our own just won’t work. Get on the donkey when you need to and let people lay down their cloaks for you and make some noise for you. ‘Cause you know you’ll do it for them too when the chips are down. What keeps you from connectedness with others? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Philippians: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from isolation as we are called into the kind of community Christ had in mind for all.

We are invited to the audacity of interdependence
so that we might recognize love in its giving and receiving.

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.

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

***Opening Hymn/Song**

**Hymn #213 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)**

**1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang,
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.**

**2. From Olivet they followed
mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship,
rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children,
Slowed down the donkey's gait.**


3. "Hosanna in the highest!"


that ancient song is ours,
 we hail our great Redeemer and
 Sing with all our powers:
 Hosanna Christ we praise you
 With heart and life and voice.
 Hosanna in your presence
 Forever we'll rejoice!


Children's Time
 Pastors invite children forward.

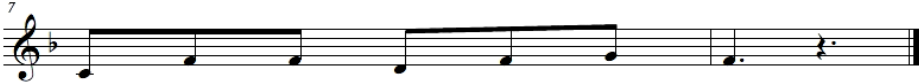
Children's Message with
Ms. Tiffany & Pastor Kayli

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

F C/E Dm B♭
 Voice 
 This, this is where child-ren be - long,

F/A Gm Am/C C

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

F Gm Am B♭

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

F/C B♭ F

 This is where child - ren be - long.

**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).**

The Word in Music

8:00 am **Heritage Choir**

Sing A Song! Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

10:30am **Mitchell Roth**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Plumptre

Gospel Reading

Luke 19: 28-40

After [Jesus] had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it."

Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith:

We are a group project.

Pastor Kris

It's a 401G Sunday!

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: We are about to make a turn into Holy Week. As we do, we remember the suffering of that week is not simply located in the time and place of Jesus. Suffering continues. Oppression is not eradicated. There are lonely, scared, hungry, homeless and despairing loved ones that are part of the "group project" that is humanity. And so we enter a time of prayer that parades of protest will turn one day to parades of joy.

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/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 <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/campaign/C-12H63>

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

We Shall Behold Him

Dottie Rambo

A Blessing for When You Feel Lonely

*“Blessed are we who cry out,
‘God, I need a friend to share the simple unaffected joys
that come,
the troubles unbidden, those too heavy to sustain...’
Blessed are we, opening our hands in readiness,
to risk intimacy, to receive the gift of friendship, and give it in
return.”*

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially
the lonely bits,
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 #216 All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)**

ALL:

**1. All glory, laud, and honor to you
O Christ we sing,
To whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews
with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
we offer you this day.**

2. O Promised One of Israel,

of David's royal line,
The one called "God's beloved,"
of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

**3. As you received their praises,
Receive our prayers today,
Whose justice and whose mercy
And sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor
To you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!**

Postlude Blake Hoppes
Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Tune: St. Christopher, Frederick C. Maker

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	
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	28
10:30 am (includes children)	92
Children's Church	21

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	1,250lbs, \$
Total YTD:	3,233 lbs, \$235

Easter Mission to Date:	\$478.00
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Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

***In memory of Grandparents Gordon and Ruth
Rothrock from the grandchildren***

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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