

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Lent 5

"We are fragile."



April 3, 2022
8am and 10:30am

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 Suzanne Schneider, 10:30 Janice Metzger

Ushers: 8:00: Phil Wehr, Ron Pope

10:30am: Aften Hamm, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum, Suzanne Lorah, Pat Warmkessel, Don Penrod, Jennifer Haley, Suzann Schneider

Sound: Mike Baer

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

I Need Thee Every Hour Annie S. Hawks, Robert Lowry,
Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold

Leader: The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last. In this fifth week of the Lent season, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. As we will see, Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death. Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong. We all know that isn't always how the story goes. We are fragile. Our lives, like the plants in the gardens we tend, are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live.

“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 126

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Holy One, Lover of Souls,
we call out to you.
You know our tears and sorrows,
and you bear the seeds of grief with us.
Open us this day to your comfort
that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy—
the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life.

We are invited into the knowledge that Christ’s vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga.

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 with a wave and smile.

***Opening Hymn/Song**

Hymn #67 Blessed Assurance

Gold Hymnal (Hymns for the Family of God)

ALL:

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**2. Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love**

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

Children's Time
Pastors invite children forward.

Children's Message with
Brynn Buskirk & Devon Kuharik

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

The image shows a musical score for a congregational song. It is written in a single system with four staves of music. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. 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 chord symbols are: F, C/E, Dm, Bb, F/A, Gm, Am/C, C, F, Gm, Am, Bb, F/C, Bb, F.

Voice

F C/E Dm Bb

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

3 F/A Gm Am/C C

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

5 F Gm Am Bb

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

7 F/C Bb 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

My Song is Love Unkown Samuel Crossman & Larry Shackley

Graham Smith, cello

8:00 Heritage Choir

10:30 Horizon Choir

Gospel Reading

John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith:

We are fragile. Susan Glosan, Interim Pastor of Visitation

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: Fragility is not only OK, it is also necessary. To know and respect our own limited nature, our vulnerability to the forces of life, we are able to see and be with those who are hurting. We enter our prayers for all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit—vowing to tend with care to those for whom deaths, of many kinds, seem near.

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 <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

Widmung (Dedication) Schumann– Liszt

A Blessing for Becoming Real
*"Blessed are you, dear, dear one,
doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered.
Of grieving what has been lost.
Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known.
This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from
the world around you,
a force field of different realities separating you.
Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most
seen
by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now.
Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you,
gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one.
You are not alone."*

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially
the grief-stricken parts,

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 #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You Black Hymnal (New Century Hymnal)

ALL:

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2. All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.**

**3. You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother,
All who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other,
By that love our joy renew.**

Postlude

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart
Tune: Morecambe, Frederick C. Atkinson

Worship Notes:

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

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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 | \$6,936.00 |
| 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 | 32 |
| 10:30 am (includes children) | 154 |
| Children's Church | 15 |

| 2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank: | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Last Week: | lbs, \$50 |
| Total YTD: | 1708 lbs, \$235 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Easter Mission to Date: | \$478.00 |
|----------------------------|----------|

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the Good News :

In memory of Pastor Thomas from the quilters

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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