

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Maundy Thursday

"You are blessed. Regardless."

April 14, 2022

7pm

Maundy Thursday

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.

Ushers: Eric Minnich & Brian Horwith
Sound: Karl Klinger

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

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Tune: Passion Chorale

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold

Leader: During the season of Lent, we focused on growing gardens, tending the life that is right in front of us, rather than constantly climbing ladders of what this world defines as success. We have been embracing “good enough” lives and “good enough” selves that are worthy of love, no matter what. In our worship this evening commemorating the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples, we see a supper in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what “blessing” really means, *regardless*.

“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 22

Leader: Let us pray together:
**Holy One, You who lay a table of blessing before us,
you have heard us and have come to us.
We lift up the cup of salvation in praise,
we break open and share our love.
Open us this night to your presence
in our gardens of delight and sorrow—
in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: The mid-20th century brought a particular shift as televangelists began to speak of blessing as a “pact” with God in which our good works (mostly our good wallets) would multiply the prosperity in our lives. But for Jesus, this moment in the Upper Room was full of trouble, danger, deception, and uncertainty. Surely Jesus, Son of God, had enough blessing capital to out-manuever this set of circumstances! In the midst of the pain of his moment, Jesus defines the real blessing pact—washing feet, breaking the bread, lifting the cup, sharing even with those who are about to betray him. In this moment of silence, take in this graceful invitation of Jesus to the table, no matter what.

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word: Love that cannot be quantified reminds us that each and every person is blessed, always, regardless of who we are, how we’ve failed, or what we’ve accomplished.

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from never feeling good enough for all the blessings of life and faith, inviting us to love and to bless in the same way—indiscriminately, extravagantly.

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

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 #281 Go to Dark Gethsemane (Hymns for the Family of God-Gold)

**1. Go to dark Gethsemane,
Ye that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
watch with him one bitter hour:
Turn not from His griefs away.
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**2. Follow to the judgement hall,
view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame or loss.
Learn from him to bear the cross.**

**3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there adoring at his feet
Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete:
It is finished! Hear him cry.
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

“We are blessed, regardless” Pastor Kayli

A Blessing for When You Don’t Feel #Blessed

Blessed am I when I lose sleep over what troubles me. When my worries keep me watching the clock tick by. When I have no energy to do anything but fret. The kingdom of God is here and now.

Blessed am I when I am drowning in grief. When wave after wave after wave crashes over me. When I start to feel okay, then something reminds me of what I’ve lost, and I’m pulled under once again. God promises to comfort me.

Blessed am I when I feel silenced and afraid to speak up. When I am forgotten and left out. When I feel small and feel as though my work, my presence, my life doesn’t matter. The whole world is mine.

Blessed am I when I am starving for justice. When the world around me feels so unfair that I could scream, but no one

seems to be listening. No one seems to care. May justice flow like a river.

Blessed am I when someone hurts me, when I feel offended, and I don't return insult with insult. Instead, I forgive, recognizing the number of times I've needed to be forgiven.

Blessed am I when I strip away all the extra. When I see the world as it really is—broken, tender, fragile, beautiful. These are the same eyes that see God in everything too.

Blessed am I when I take the hard road. The winding one that doesn't opt for the shortcut of rage or resentment or unkind words. That doesn't pave over with trite niceties, but walks toward peacemaking. For I am God's kid.

Blessed am I when I face hardships of all sorts. Insults, hurt feelings, lies, and vindictive neighbors (why is loving your *actual* neighbor so hard, God?). Blessed am I when I work to usher in God's kingdom of love and compassion and justice and forgiveness and peace, even when it's hard.

Blessed are we. The imperfect and don't-have-it-all- together. God's beloved.

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

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness Gardiner
Mitchell Roth, Trumpet

Invitation to the Upper Room

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once."

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

A Good Enough Step

Leader: We love blessing people we find easy to love. But Jesus knew that night there were people who would betray him, and he washed their feet anyway. Madeleine L'Engle wrote this in her work, "A Stone for a Pillow":

"We must bless without wanting to manipulate. Without insisting that everything be straightened out right now. Without insisting that our truth be known. This means simply turning whoever it is we need to bless over to God, knowing that God's powerful love will do what our own feeble love or lack of it won't. I have suggested that it is a good practice to believe in six impossible things every morning before breakfast, like the White Queen in Through the Looking Glass. It is also salutary to bless six people I don't much like every morning before breakfast."

So now it is your turn. If you are comfortable doing so, close your eyes and call to mind six people that "rub you the wrong way," that have made your life less-than-easy, or that you just struggle to like at all. Take your time. Do you see them?

Imagine yourself across a water basin from them. Imagine washing their feet, or hands. Imagine blessing them. Even . . . *especially* . . . if you don't want to. Take another few moments to visualize this.

I invite you to open your eyes if they have been closed. Not easy. And it is ok if you couldn't bring yourself right now to bring their image into this moment—we can help each other make this good enough step. Let's say one of the oldest blessings "in the Book" together, keeping in mind those we love and those we struggle to love:

**"The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24–26)**

HOLY COMMUNION

Recognition of First Communion 2022

Reid Buskirk, Macayla Hoffert, Mason MacDonald, Raegan Minnich, Nate Ploeger, Cael Vermeulen

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace.

Leader: Christ looks upon each one with love and says,

ALL: “you are welcome at my table.”

Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,

ALL: “whatever troubles you, bring it here.”

Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,

ALL: “whatever you’d like to leave behind, do it here.”

Leader: Will you come?

Will you bring your troubles?

Will you shed all that is unnecessary in your life?

This is the place where you need not be perfect,
you need not be sure of yourself or your faith,
you need not feel whole and right with the world.

Jesus invited many to his tables
and in doing so, he assured them of their place
in the illogical reign of love and grace.
He just wanted them to be hungry for relationship—
hungry to look across a table into another’s eyes,
to break open their lives,
and lift a cup in the midst of the hard times and hear,
“this is for all,
and so this is for you, beloved.”

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy Living God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
anytime and everywhere to give thanks to you.
You created this world full of so much beauty and
Sorrow and called it Good. And called it Enough.

Although we feel lost at times,
you are ever present.
We doubt, resist, turn away, and rage,
insistent on our own power to pull us through,
and yet sure that we are to blame,
making life seem like a confusing paradox.

But you are patient.
You are here to meet us—reside with us in strange
and alienating times,
always faithful, always present
in this Body
in this Body

Leader: Through the life and ministry of Jesus,
we can imagine and live into a community
where all who struggle are taken into loving arms
and those who struggle to love are invited into
greater compassion.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me.”

And so,
We remember...
We offer ourselves ...
We proclaim God’s time...

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit
on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.
Make them be for us sustenance for our days,
love for simple and ordinary lives,
fuel for justice in this world.

By your Spirit open us to each other.
Open us to the world,
making us one in you,
through Christ,
in the power of your amazing grace!

The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

SHARING THE MEAL

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take and eat.
Take and drink.

L: May the precious body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

MUSIC OFFERING

The Old Rugged Cross George Bennard

Brass Ensemble: Mitchell Roth, Justin Bower, and
Cameron Kuntz

Preparing for Good Friday

Children and adults are invited to wear white gloves as they assist in removing items from the altar

The Garden Vigil

Luke 22: 39-53

Leader: You are invited to stay as long as you wish and leave in silence after our final reading from the Gospel of Luke:

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police,

and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

You are invited to leave in silence.

May your Easter Vigil be a place of reflection and renewal that leads you to resurrection.

**Easter Sunday Worship
6:15am Sunrise Worship in the Grove
8am and 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary
EASTER MIMOSAS and BUNNIES on the LAWN
Join us after 8am and 10:30am worship on the front lawn of the church
for a celebratory mimosa, orange juice, and snack.
The Easter Bunny will be joining us!**

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.

"#Blessing" from [Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough) 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	\$5,672.00
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	
10:30 am (includes children)	
Children's Church	

2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
Last Week:	lbs, \$
Total YTD:	1,983 lbs, \$235

Easter Mission to Date:	\$1,222.00
----------------------------	------------

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.*

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732
One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A714125