



March 13, 2022

Prelude

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Gathering

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 experience 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.

Music Refrain:

*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.*

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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, forever. Amen.

We Welcome a New Member to Zion UCC

We Hear God's Word

Luke 13: 31-35 (NRSV)

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.'"

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

"So much is out of our control."

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—When so much in life is out of our control, we can nonetheless choose to be generous with our lives. We can be generous with our actions, with our words, with our compassion, with our resources, whatever they might be, and with our very lives.

One Great Hour of Sharing—*Special offering for March 20*

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Next week we'll hear stories about how the One Great Hour of Sharing had a direct

impact on two families, one from Ohio and one from Myanmar. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, *Love remains*

March Benevolence—Jesus invited us to do to the least of these as we would do for him. To feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty is the same as giving food and drink to our Savior. This month we seek to feed our hungry neighbors, those who face food insecurity and need a little support to care for their families. Every week God’s Bounty Food Pantry lives out Christ’s call for us to serve our neighbors.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow,
Praise Three-in-One, from here below.

We Give Thanks— 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.

Hymn

O How I Love Jesus #109

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 the ordinary 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.

Postlude

Rigadoon

Worship Notes:

- 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 When You Realize Everyone is Struggling" 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.