



March 9, 2022

Prelude

Gathering Prayer—Holy One, Our Refuge and Shelter, we call out to you, sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress—as life goes. Whether we perceive it or not, you are there. Open us this day to your presence in the smile of a friend, in the call of a bird—in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days...

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.*

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: We find ourselves hungry for many things that we believe will bring us satisfaction. In our scripture reading Sunday, of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, the devil lays a bet that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. Who wouldn't? But Jesus keeps up the pithy one-liners long enough that the Tempster just has to slink away. What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be more special than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy—as is? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Romans: “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the temptations of the “not enough-ness” of our time, inviting us to love and revere the seeming ordinariness of the day-to-day so that we might recognize its true beauty. 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.

We Hear God’s Word

Romans 10:8b-13 (NRSV)

‘The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart’
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.¹³For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

“Ordinary lives can be holy.”

Hymn

Be Still for the Spirit of the Lord, #129

A Blessing for the Life You Have

Blessed are you amid the ordinary details that define what life is for you, right now. And as you see them, greet them—each one—as you smile and call them by name. Everyday joys. Small pleasures. Birds chirping. Cat cuddles. A cold glass of water. A little child calling your name. The breeze on your cheeks. The ocean rhythm. The perfect pillow. The kindness of a friend. Loves that are and were and ever will be.

May they seem even lovelier, even more delicious because they become gifts offered anew. May gratitude fill you, reaching all of the spaces within you that

disappointment left behind and fear has gripped. May something rise in your heart that feels like a strange new kind of contentment...

Blessed are you, finding that life is good because it is enough.

Postlude

Worship Notes:

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