



March 16, 2022

## Prelude

## *Healer of Broken Hearts*

**Gathering Prayer**— Holy One, Our Light and Salvation, we call out to you, sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life. Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths. Open us this day to your grace and peace, transform our frustrations into 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—We Confess our Sins and Receive God’s Grace**

*Leader:* In the scripture we’ll hear tonight, as Jesus looks out over Jerusalem in lament, we learn that even Jesus got frustrated when folks didn’t behave as he would have liked. We probably aren’t receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will always go our way. We run around in so many directions, trying to herd the chicks into some imagined semblance of perfect formation (have you ever tried to herd chicks?). What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be “just so” and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*Silent Reflection*

*Leader:* Hear this compassionate word from the Psalmist: "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from feeling alone in fixing what feels oh so wrong with this world, inviting us to let go of the need to *be* God, so that we might recognize that God is *with* us, offering courage in difficulty. 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**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.  
Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.  
One thing I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD

*Psalm 27:1-6 (NRSV)*

all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.  
For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his  
tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.  
Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to  
the LORD.

*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**

“Somethings are out of our control.”

### **Hymn**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God, #461*

### **A Blessing in the Wake of Loss, at the Beginning of Something New**

*Blessed are you*, after the fall. In this new and unrecognizable landscape. At the still point between what was and what's to come. Time has stretched itself, and there seems to be a future somewhere, but it touches you only lightly.

*Blessed are you*, right here, in between. At the end that comes before the beginning. Knowing that grief is a long story, and maybe, somehow, you are still in it. Growing straight down in the dark where sorrow breathes best. Where roots find their secret springs in crevices that are well hidden. Where God's great magic act of love begins.

*Blessed are you*, starting to sense that maybe sunlight can reach you, even here. And you reach out, finding yourself in a fierce embrace. And God's voice saying: You are not a bad thing. You are not ruined. You are not broken, nor over, nor a failure, nor learning a lesson. You are my suffering one, and you are loved, you are love, you are loved...

### **Postlude**

*I Hear Thy Welcome Voice*

#### Worship Notes:

- All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough](http://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 in the Wake of Loss, at the Beginning of Something New” 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](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough).