



March 20, 2022

## Prelude

*O Store Gud*

**Gathering**--As we continue our look at what it means to release oppressive expectations about perfection in our lives and in our faith, this week we turn to a harmful idea that the prescription for our fear of failure is to simply work harder. As the book *Good Enough* reminds us, “We might feel we are climbing an ‘endless staircase’ of achievement, for high grades or success...[in] caregiving, work, or social pressure.” This Lent, we are taking some time to stop climbing ladders and staircases, to tend our souls slowly and lovingly, tilling the soil and fertilizer, 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 Hear God's Word**

*Luke 13: 6-9 (NRSV)*

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'

He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

### **Mission Moments – One Great Hour of Sharing Stories**

#### **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**— Around the world, gifts given by this faith community to One Great Hour of Sharing weave together a tapestry of faith, hope, and love in action. We are grateful for the opportunity to change the world through our acts of kindness, large and small.+ We bring our gifts this day, knowing that God will help tend to the seeds that we plant. We bring our gifts, with hope for the future, that one day they might bear fruit.

#### **March Benevolence**—God's Bounty Food Pantry

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://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**— We offer these gifts, O God, in the spirit of love. May the gifts that we offer this day embody our loving response to your great love for

us. Through these gifts, may others feel the love of Christ. In Jesus' name,  
Amen.+

## Hymn

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, #80

## A Blessing for Slowing Down

*"...blessed are we who stop—okay, maybe not stop entirely,  
who are we kidding—but who slow down.*

*We who discover rest and new life and renewal  
when we step off the treadmill (or at least turn it down).*

*We who remember that the world keeps spinning without us. And thank God for  
that. We who remember we are loved, loved, loved. Just being us."*

## 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

### Worship Notes:

- +UCC One Great Hour of Sharing Worship Resources.
- 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 for Slowing Down [excerpt]" 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](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough).