



April 17, 2022

## Prelude

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Gathering**—During the season of Lent, and this last week in Holy Week, 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. We have been acknowledging the suffering that is a natural part of life, and we have practiced compassion as we deal with the realities and limitations that invite us to let go of perfectionism and the incessant drive toward something other than our own real, holy, and “blessed-regardless” lives. And now we encounter Easter. It is a day we proclaim that while death is a part of life—even little “deaths” along the way of dreams, of love, of the way we thought life would go—even though this is a part of life, we are part of a faith that invites us to consider that the Good Gardener, our Great Creator God, is *always* tending us, abiding with us, beyond any kind of death that faces us. So today we celebrate the fullness of life we know in Christ Jesus.

## Introit

*He is Risen*, Choir and Bell Choir

## 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.

## **Bell Anthem**

*Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

## **We Hear God's Word**

*John 20:1-18 (NRSV)*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith**

“A Good Enough Faith: Lessons from the Garden”

### **Hymn**

*In the Garden*, #300

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

**Invitation**— The gift of God is here with us, for the presence of the risen Christ is with us always. In gratitude, may we offer our gifts, as we give thanks to the Lord, who is good. Truly, God’s steadfast love endures forever.~

**April Benevolence**—Our Church’s Wider Mission

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**— 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**

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*, #288

### **A Blessing for When You Are Being Planted**

*Blessed are you* who are buried. You who feel stuck in the depths of grief and despair or who sit in the pit of unknowing. You who are learning to trust the timing of a tender Gardener.

*Blessed are you* who are growing, you who burst with new life, fresh creativity. Who understand the pain that sometimes comes with stretching and changing, pruning and being cut back.

*And blessed are you* in your season of fruitfulness. You who are learning to abide in the vine, and who taste the sweetness of God's loving-kindness. The God who was there all along—planting, waiting, watering, pruning, delighting. The God who pays careful attention to God's garden.

### **Benediction**

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the gardens we call our lives, 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**

*Morning Has Broken*

#### Worship Notes:

- All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough). Used and adapted with permission.
- ~ Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 (p. 108). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.
- “Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.
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