



Prelude

Welcome/Introduction

P: 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.

*Theme Song: “Good Enough”

What in our lives do we dream a-bout for to - mor-row, void of sor-row?

5
Timespent re - gret-ting de - ci - sions of our yes-ter-days, mi - stakes we made?

9
Some-times we get what we get, life dis - appoints us and yet,

13
God is still here and some - how, this faith is good e - nough.

****Prayer of the Day: Based on Psalm 27***

Let us pray together:

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. Amen.

****Honest Questions, Compassionate Response***

Even Jesus got dang 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

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 forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:31-35

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.'"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "So much is out of our control." Rev. Becky Sells

Prayers of the People Song: "That Is Enough for Me"

Our prayer song this Lenten season is written in the 19th century by Daniel S. Warner, a newspaper publisher and outspoken believer in sanctification (the movement toward perfection). Sanctification, or the process of being set apart or made holy, is a theological concept that has been greatly debated over time. Are we made holy in a once-and-done kind of way or are we always simply moving in that direction based on our merits? It is as if once the debate is settled, then we can know what to do and control the outcome of goodness for ourselves. And yet, if we worry less about our own sanctification and more on treating the world, the planet, and all the creatures, especially those who are suffering, as holy and worthy of our love, then we will be acting on what we can control, sharing what we have with others.



1. Though all a-long our dail-y pil-grim race our treas-ures small and ve-ry few may be,
 2. When food and rai-ment are not ev-er sure, and sim-ple fare is hard to get for some,



our souls are blest with God's un- end- ing grace, and that is e-nough, e-nough for me.
 we work to share our goods with one and all, and that is e-nough, e-nough for me.



Oh that's _____ e - nough for me, _____ God's
 Oh, that's _____ e - nough for me, _____ God's



truth _____ has set me free; _____ The love _____ of Christ has
 truth _____ has set me free; _____ A love _____ like Christ's is



sanc - ti - fied my soul, And _____ that _____ is e - nough for _____ me.
 meant for ev - 'ry soul, And _____ that _____ is e - nough for _____ me.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

A Blessing for the week by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie: "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 when it's painful, 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.

Sending Song: "Children of the Heavenly Father"..... ELW 781

Dismissal

God is still here and somehow,
This faith is good enough.
Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough. "Good Enough" theme song is written by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. "A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey" from *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used and adapted with permission of Worship Design Studio.

Hymns reprinted by permission under CCLI License #3067941 and One License No. A-732551. All rights reserved.