



Prelude

Welcome/Introduction

P: 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.

*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 - ap-oints us and yet,

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

****Prayer of the Day: Based on Psalm 63***

Let us pray together:

Holy One, Our Balm, Our Feast

**we lift our hands and call your name,
in need of healing—thirsting and hungry.**

Your steadfast love is better than life.

Open us this day to your nourishment

in the songs of the land, in the beauty of the sky—

in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

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

In our Gospel scripture today, we will hear about the unproductive fig tree. Oh, the shame of being unproductive! Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what's wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the crappy stuff of life can help heal what ails us. Is this not sometimes productive enough? What productivity expectations are holding you captive? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Hear this compassionate word from Isaiah: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Know that already, God is offering us love enough
no matter how much we attain or achieve.

We are invited to release oppressive expectations of ourselves and others
so that we might recognize true worth afforded to all.

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 PROCLAIM

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

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.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"Lots of things can be medicine."* 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 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, and you—without price, 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: “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW 512

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.

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