



Prelude

Welcome/Introduction

P: Each week of this Lent season, we are focusing on ways that we can practice a counter-cultural theology that emphasizes the beauty and grace of the reality of life-right-now rather than waiting with increasing judgment to reach some vision of a perfected existence. Our ladder-climbing efforts sometimes end up taking us down a rung or two as things don't work out just right. And so let us continue to turn ladders into gardens, nurturing our souls 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 32

Let us pray together:

Holy One, God of Forgiveness, we call out to you and you surround us with deliverance. You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others. Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

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

Today we will hear how the Prodigal Son lives high on the hog and then famine strikes in the land of his dream vacation. And so he heads home, tail between his legs, expecting that he has lost it all. To his surprise, his extravagant failure is met with extravagant love and grace. We can be pretty hard on ourselves when things don't go as planned. Guilt, shame, and fear of being seen as a failure can leave us wallowing in the pig pen. Our delusions of a perfectible life keep us disappointed in ourselves. Truth is, life is a big ole risk every single day and facing whatever each day holds is not only good enough, but worthy of love and grace. Do you find yourself being unrealistically hard on yourself? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Hear this compassionate word from the Second Letter to the Corinthians: **“From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”**

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the guilt and shame of our past failings and our present unrealistic expectations. We are invited to rejoice that each day is a new beginning, so that we might enjoy, and not dread, the life before us. 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 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon: “We often believe that we are the problem.” Rev. Becky Sells

Prayers of the People Song: “That Is Enough for Me”

Blaming is a typical human behavior. We've talked about those times when we blame ourselves harshly, and we know we often turn the blame on others. A particular attitude of blaming happens in a culture that has identified “goodness” with “boot-strapping effort.” So many who are victims of systematized oppression are blamed for their own circumstances. They end up being deprived of just resolutions to the deprivation that results from unjust systems. As individuals, as a society, and as a church, we must work to eradicate this kind of blaming and its resulting layers of suffering.



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 Becoming Real”

*"Blessed are you who do not despise your realness.
It may hurt. You may not recognize yourself in the mirror.
But this is what we hoped for, right?
To live and love. To be loved.
To have our experiences show on our faces and in our cells.
It is the real life of Jesus in us, being made visible, as all our seams show."*

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the broken bits, 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: *“Our Father, We Have Wandered”*..... ELW 607

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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