



Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Good Friday

April 3, 2026

“Even today, God is here and
somehow, that is good enough.”

Please enter and be seated in silence.

Welcome/Introduction

***Prayer of the Day:** *Based on Psalm 22*

P: Let us pray together:

Holy One, Trusted Guide of our ancestors, at times we feel forsaken. You took us from the womb and laid us in the safety of loving arms, and yet life has thrown us again and again into the loss of connection. Gardens of joy grow silent with grief. Be with us this night as we mourn what cannot be.

Amen.

***Hymn:** “O God, Why Are You Silent” ELW 703

Please be seated.

Message: *Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith:*

“Even today, God is here and somehow, that is good enough.”

Hymn: “Were You There” ELW 353

A TENEBRAE from *John 18:12–19:42*
(*Tenebrae* means “Shadow” or “Darkness”)

P: Last night in our Maundy Thursday service, we gathered with Jesus in the Upper Room. There is only one other place in the Gospels where the Greek word used to describe the Upper Room was also repeated—the place, the room where Jesus was born. Two places where the dark birthed something new... the dark womb and the dark tomb. Tonight we continue the story that began last night in a tradition of “tenebrae” or “darkness,” descending with Jesus into the depths of our own stories of grief, disappointment, and betrayal.

The first candle is extinguished.

John 18:12-14

The second candle is extinguished.

John 18:15-18

The third candle is extinguished.

John 18:19-24

The fourth candle is extinguished.

John 18:25-27

The fifth candle is extinguished.

John 18:28-32

The sixth candle is extinguished.

John 18:33-38a

The seventh candle is extinguished.

John 18:38b-40

The eighth candle is extinguished.

John 19:1-11

The ninth candle is extinguished.

John 19:12-16

The tenth candle is extinguished.

John 19:17-22

The eleventh candle is extinguished.

John 19:23-24

The twelfth candle is extinguished.

John 19:25-27

The thirteenth candle is extinguished.

John 19:28-30

The fourteenth candle is extinguished.

John 19:31-37

The pastor moves with the Christ candle to the garden area.

John 19:38-42

Wrapped in Cloths of Care

P: And so we find ourselves in another garden, a place of burial. I invite you to write a word or phrase of something in your life that you mourn on your rubber bracelet that you've been given to be a symbol of that heavy thing that weighs you down (or simply think about it, if you don't want others to see it) and then put that bracelet on around your wrist to wear as a wrapping that binds you out into the night. Perhaps even wearing it until Easter morning. In this way we draw in another bookend in this story... the swaddling clothes that wrapped Jesus at his birth and the linen burial cloths in the story of his death. Indeed, in the silence of the garden, the shadows of the tomb, the depths of our grief, we remember that in the midst of devastation, God is buried with us in our deepest pain, wrapping us, holding us until we can move through the darkness of the womb, the darkness of our current situations of grief and pain, or even the darkness of the tomb into new life.

Pause for writing and pondering what grief and pain bind us.

A Blessing for When You Mourn What Could Have Been

P: *Blessed are you*, friend, sitting among the shards of what could have been. It is broken now, that dream you loved, and it has spilled out all over the ground. Blessed are you, dear one, letting your eyes look around and remember all the hope your dream once contained. All the love. All the beauty. Blessed are you, telling your tears they can flow. Telling your anger it can speak. Blessed are you when mourning is the holy work of the moment, for it speaks of what is real. Blessed are you, letting this loss speak all its terrible truth to your soul.

Blessed are we who mourn, saying let us remain in grief's cold winter for as long as it takes, that mourning might be to our hearts the gentlest springtime. Let the thaw come slowly, so we can bear the pain of it and find comfort at each release.

Amen.

This concludes our service.

When ready, you may leave in silence or stay and pray if you'd like.

Please remain silent until you have exited the building in consideration of those still praying.

All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough. "Mourning A Future Self" devotion and "A Blessing for When You Mourn What Could Have Been" 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. Purchase the book at <https://katebowler.com/books/good-enough>.

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