

Offertory: "And Can It Be" E. Hagenberg
***Doxology:** UMH # 94
***Hymn:** "Grace Alone" TFWS #2162
Benediction:
Postlude: "Praise the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN arr. J. Bender

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Good Enough Song:

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?
Sometimes we get what we get, life disappoints us and yet,
God is still here somehow, this faith is good enough.

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Jack Rust, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

Altar Guild: Chad & Phyllis Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Erica Weida, Vera Baker, and volunteers

Liturgist: Camille Twining

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Ann Guyotte,

Kathy Hathaway, Brenda Lopez, Margo Sweetland

Video Team: Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Eric Wing



Celebrate God's love

Nurture relationships with God and one another

Serve our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

www.trinityspringfield.org

Pastor, Rev. René Perez

Director of Music Ministry, Michael Carney

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity

Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.



GOOD ENOUGH: Palm Sunday
Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

April 10, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Bold items are the congregation's part. * Stand if you are able

Music for Gathering: "A Ceremonial Pageant" S. Clark

(All Children & youth are invited to gather in the back of the Sanctuary for the palm procession.)

Welcome and Announcements

(Visitors please fill out the blue paper in the red folder. Members please sign in & date the white attendance sheets & pass it on. Please remember late comers.)

Introit: "Hosanna"

***Call to Worship: Leader:** We stand at the precipice of Lent and Holy Week. This day moves from shouting and praising to a time of crying and lament. The drama of the story of Jesus' last week reads like the book of our lives. Feeling hopeful one moment, we plummet the next as we deal with disappointment, danger, and grief. God's incarnation on earth was not immune from this roller-coaster we call life.

People: We just want to survive, to be comforted, to have our pain known and embraced. And so we turn from the isolation of perfection and turn toward deep love. It is never too late to nurture the garden of relationships, for we are all a group project. Sometimes life disappoints us and yet, God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

***Hymn:** "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" UMH #278

Extinguishing the Sixth Candle and Prayer: (Process and Faith modified)

We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine. I invite you now to close your eyes and let go of the things that distract and concern you. Listen!... The time is drawing near. Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem. How will we greet him? The power of Jesus is that he lived what he taught. He lived with an abiding awareness of God, radiating the light of God in all he said and did. There are forces today, as there were in ancient Judea, that conspire to put it out. Where are we in this drama? What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus? As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of the world.

Let us pray. **God of Goodness, there are so many choices before us every day. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.**

Special Music: "Ride on, King Jesus!" Spiritual arr. N. Wertsch

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

A "Good Enough" Procession (Please join in singing.)

Children's Moment

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response:

Jesus orchestrated a low-budget parade into a city where he knew his days were numbered. "Get me a donkey," he said. Not a steed. And folks gathered and his friends started some liturgical shouting... Life is hard and we all need friends and sometimes big, loud, praying that will not be messed with. We are created for interdependence. All our hiding and pretending that we are "perfectly fine" all on our own just won't work. Get on the donkey when you need to and let people lay down their cloaks for you and make some noise for you. 'Cause you know you'll do it for them too. Consider for a moment: What keeps you from connectedness with others? *Silent Reflection...*

Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Philippians: "*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...*" Know that already, God is offering us freedom from isolation as we are called into the kind of community Christ had in mind for all.

ALL: Despite our sometimes-faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are being forgiven, even now. Glory to God! Amen.

Prayers for the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Moment of Silence and Prayer Response

***The Word in Music:** "Spirit of God" (vv.1 & 5) TFWS #2117

(At the start of this hymn children ages 7-12 are invited to go to the Chapel for Chapel Kids.)

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40 (NRSV) N.T. p. 78

Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith:

"We Are a Group Project"

Response to The Word:

Baptism of Eli David Bengel

***Hymn:** "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" (v.1) UMH #605

Invitation to Offering and Prayer: We are about to make a turn into Holy Week. As we do, we remember the suffering of that week is not simply located in that time and place. Suffering continues. Oppression is not eradicated. There are lonely, scared, hungry, homeless and despairing loved ones that are part of the "group project" that is humanity. *As the offering plate comes around, let us respond with hope. 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.*