

***Hymn:** "Lift High the Cross" UMH #159
(If you would like to place a carnation on the altar, please do so now and return to your seat. Thank you.)

A Blessing for You Who Are Being Planted

[from Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie]

Blessed are you who are buried. You who feel stuck in the depths of grief and despair or who sit in the pit of unknowing. You who are learning to trust the timing of a tender Gardener.

Blessed are you who are growing, you who burst with new life, fresh creativity.

Who understand the pain that sometimes comes with stretching and changing, pruning and being cut back.

And blessed are you in your season of fruitfulness. You who are learning to abide in the vine, and who taste the sweetness of God's loving-kindness. The God who was there all along—planting, waiting, watering, pruning, delighting. The God who pays careful attention to God's garden.

Hallelujah Chorus: G. F. Handel

Benediction

Postlude: "Fanfare on Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN arr. J. Behnke

All liturgy and leader parts Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough. Used and adapted with permission.

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Thanks to Ken Guerin, Edith Dorang & Nicole Baker for making the Chapel Kids' Lenten Garden possible!

Acolytes: Felix, Fiona, Meriel Everett

Altar Guild: Chad and Phyllis Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Instrumentalists: Vera Baker, piano; Kevin Barker, timpani; Vincent Cassotta, trumpet; Scott Demus, trombone; Steve Hays, piano; Mike Ferrigno, trombone; Pat Lennon, trumpet

Liturgist: Michael Rust

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

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



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: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith
Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 **10:30 a.m.**

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

Music for Gathering: "This Joyful Eastertide" VREUCHTEN arr. R. Mallory
Trinity Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

(Visitors please fill out the blue paper in the red folder. Members please sign & pass the white attendance sheets.)

Introit: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" R. Lau
Choristers

***Call to Worship:**

We have been embracing "good enough" lives and "good enough" selves that are worthy of love, no matter what. We have been acknowledging the suffering that is a natural part of life, and we have practiced compassion as we deal with the realities and limitations that invite us to let go of perfectionism and the incessant drive toward something other than our own real, holy, and "blessed-regardless" lives. And now we encounter Easter.

Today is a day we proclaim that while death is a part of life—even little "deaths" along the way of dreams, of love, of the way we thought life would go—even though this is a part of life, we are part of a faith that invites us to consider that the Good Gardener is always tending us, abiding with us, beyond any kind of death that faces us.

***Processional Hymn:** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (vv. 1-4) UMH#302

The Easter Candle Proclamation: *(Process and Faith)*

The light which the world tried to extinguish cannot be put out. Today we light the candles again, proclaiming the transforming power of God. Today we celebrate: new life, new joy, new possibilities. Christ is alive and living among us! As we light the candles, we acknowledge that there is still pain and suffering in the world, but we place our trust in God and in the way shown by Jesus Christ. In the midst of darkness, there is light. God is at work in us and in the world, working for justice and peace, compassion and love, and life abundant. Christ is risen; Christ is risen in us, for wherever we gather in his name, he is there. *(All candles are re-lit.)*

All: Alleluia, Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

Holy One, You whose love endures forever, you keep offering us new life and hope, no matter what. We praise you, for you are our strength and our salvation. You call us into the light—encouraging us to reach for the sun, unfurl our full colors, and know that we are held in the deep and rich soil of your garden— this is more than good enough for us! Amen.

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.

Special Music: "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" W. Wold
Choristers and Chamberettes

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

A "Good Enough" Procession

Children's Moment

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response:

Easter is tricky when it comes to faith. The resurrection story proclaims hope over despair and life over death, yet we know that life continued, and continues for us, as a story of spiking heartbreak moments that are not forever fixed. The nature of being created for love is that we will always hunger for more, that there is never enough life and love to satisfy. And endings are often too soon. But perhaps a good enough faith is one that moves through the chronic nature of being incurably human with an eye for resurrection moments that assure us that this good enough life is worthy of our amazement. I invite you to imagine in this silence the deep seed and shoot that is growing within you, yearning for light and life. Silent Reflection

Hear this compassionate word from the prophet Isaiah: "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind." 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.

An Offering of Movement, Music & Dance: "First Light" K. MacLeod
Dance Movement Choir

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18 (NRSV) N.T. p. 108

***The Word in Music:** "Hymn of Promise" UMH #707

Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith:

"A Good Enough Faith"

Invitation to Offering: In the lovely darkness of a womb and tomb, God held us close, created hope, taking time to fashion, craft, nurture, feed, and love us into liberation and new life. God has given us the light of day, the light of this world. *And so, in an act of letting go into the light, let us respond through our offering.*

Offertory: "Christ the Lord is Risen Again" P. Stopford
(Chapel Kids are invited for a quick visit to the Chapel to finish transforming our Lenten Garden.)

***Doxology:** UMH #94

***Prayer:**

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.