

Offertory: "I Am Not My Own" S. Boersma and C. Courtney

A Blessing for When You're in Grief

"Blessed are you, dear, dear one, doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered.
Of grieving what has been lost. Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known.
This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you,
a force field of different realities separating you.
Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen
by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now.
Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you,
gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."

***Hymn:** "Saranam, Saranam" UMH #523

Benediction:

Postlude: "Toccata in E Minor" J. Pachelbel

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"A Blessing for When You're in Grief [excerpt]" from [Good Enough: 40-ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](#) by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Special thanks to the Youth Handbell Choir for providing beautiful music during the service.

Accompanist: Vera Baker

Acolytes: Arrianna Bhajjan, Ella Butcher, Mason Hedeem

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Doris Acconcio, from her son Jim, Ellen & David.

Altar Guild: Ginger Elliott

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Erica Weida and volunteers

Liturgist: Hannah Rosenman

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Jacki Barden, Ginger Elliott, Deb Garth

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

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www.trinityspringfield.org

Pastor, Rev. René Perez

Director of Music Ministry, Michael Carney

Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell

Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern



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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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

10:30 a.m.

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

Music for Gathering: "Morning Has Broken" BUNESSAN arr. K. McChesney

Welcome and Announcements

(Visitors/members please sign & date the red folder & pass it on. Please remember late comers.)

Introit: "Glorioso" S. Danyew

***Call to Worship:** The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last. In this fifth week of the Lent season, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. As we will see, Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death. Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong. We all know that isn't always how the story goes.

People: We are fragile. Our lives, like the plants in the gardens we tend, are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live. Sometimes life disappoints us and yet, God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

***Hymn:** "I Stand Amazed in the Presence" UMH #371

Extinguishing the Fifth Candle and Prayer: *(Process and Faith)*

When we arrived this morning we entered into the normal bustle of a church on a Sunday morning: friends greeting each other, choir members rehearsing, children bringing their energy and enthusiasm. Now that we are sitting together, I invite you to close your eyes . . . and consider the word, "sanctuary." A sanctuary is a place set aside for sacred things. It is a place of refuge and protection. This room is a sanctuary. The season of Lent is a kind of sanctuary, extended in time. And one of the things Lent teaches is that we, too, are a sanctuary. There is inside us a place for sacred things, a place where God abides. As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of war and oppression in the world.

Let us pray: **Holy One, Lover of Souls, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our innermost being, only to find you already there. You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy– the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.**

***Special Music:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" HAMBURG arr. K. Dennis

*Waving the Peace of Christ

A "Good Enough" Procession

Children's Moment

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response:

Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. "Oh, don't say that," so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? I invite us to take a moment of silence to reflect on that question...*Silent Reflection*

Hear this compassionate word from Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ's vulnerability shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga. 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.**

Joys, Concerns and Prayers for the People

Moment of Silence

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.

Prayer Response

***The Word in Music:** "Something Beautiful" UMH #394

(No Chapel Kids Today Because of Communion Sunday.)

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

N.T. pp. 100

Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith:

"We Are Fragile"

Invitation to Offering and Prayer:

Fragility is not only okay; it is also necessary. To know and respect our own limited nature, our vulnerability to the forces of life, we are able to see and be with those who are hurting. We enter this time of giving vowing to care for those who suffer. *As the offering plate comes around, let us respond in openness to all that we know. Let us pray: 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.*