

Offertory: "You Do Not Walk Alone" E. Hagenberg

Doxology UMH # 94

Offering 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.

A Blessing for When You Realize Everyone Is Struggling

"Blessed are you who see things clearly, where struggle is everyone's normal. You walk among the fellowship of the afflicted, a club no one wants to join. And while this life isn't shiny, it does come with superpowers. Superpowers of ever-widening empathy and existential courage that gets you back up after another fall and a deepened awe at the beauty and love that can be found amid life's rubble. Like flowers that grow from the cracks in the sidewalk. These virtues blossom in you. And thank God for you. Blessed are we, all of us who struggle, for we are in good company, and we will never walk alone."

***Hymn:** "Leave It There" UMH #522

Benediction

Postlude: "I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger" American Folk arr. T. Waldrop

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We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Ella Butcher, Adrianna Bhajjan, Jack Rust

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of David Broome, from the Broome family.

Altar Guild: Ginger Elliott and Lisa Foster

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Fellowship Hour: Katherine Lovell

Liturgist: Samuel Foresta

Soloists: Holly Joy Pearson, Kelly Henry, Trinity Handbell Choir

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Andrew, Jacob, and Lisa Bakowski, Ray Miller

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
Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

10:30 a.m.

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

Music for Gathering: "Toccata on King's Weston" R.V. Williams arr. M. Compton

Welcome and Announcements

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

Introit: "Jesus Calls Us"

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: We continue our movement through the season of Lent this week with another kind of "letting go." This week we lament that so much in life is out of our control. This is frustrating to us and so sometimes we have been tempted to believe the saying that tell us if we just "think positively," we can turn it all around.

People: Yet our experience tells us that this doesn't always work. Let us turn ladder-climbing toward the expectation of a perfect life into garden-tending, nurturing "what is" and embracing our holy, good enough, lives.

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

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

On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school—the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else. We come here seeking a shift—from the ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being. I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent, a time of sowing, when seeds of faith are thrown with special intensity, as a time when God calls to us in a low, urgent voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to? What is God calling you to do? (A candle is extinguished.) *As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injury done to the Earth and its ecosystems.*

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.

***Special Music:** "Be Thou My Vision" Traditional Irish arr. D. Forrest

***Waving the Peace of Christ**

A "Good Enough" Procession

Children's Moment

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response:

Leader: Even Jesus got frustrated when folks did not behave as he would have liked. We probably are not receiving death threats from Herod as Jesus was, but our wellbeing could be threatened by the idea that if we just try hard enough, are nice enough, say just the right thing, life will always go our way. We run around in so many directions, trying to herd the chicks into some imagined semblance of perfect formation. What if we could let go of needing all things and all people to be "just so" and instead learn to dance with the unfolding of that which is not ours to control? Let us take a moment of silent reflection... *Silent Reflection*

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Psalmist: "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" Know that already, God is offering us freedom from feeling alone in fixing what feels oh so wrong with this world, inviting us to let go of the need to *be* God, so that we might recognize that God is *with* us, offering courage in difficulty. And know that despite our sometimes-faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

Prayer 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.

Prayer Response:

***The Word in Music:** "Sweet Hour of Prayer" UMH #496

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV)

Thoughts About an Imperfect Life and Faith:

"So Much is Out of Control"

Invitation to Offering:

If we worry less about ourselves and more on treating the world, the planet, and all the creatures, especially those who are suffering, as holy and worthy of our love, then we will be acting on what we can control, sharing what we have with others. *As the offering plate comes around, respond in openness to all we've been given.*