

*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 all of us who struggle, for we are in good company,
and we'll never walk alone."*

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially when
it's painful,
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways,
go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

Choral Reprise

Sing Together

God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

Postlude Hanna Noh



Asbury United Methodist Church

March 5, 2023 9:30 A.M.

143 Ann Mary Brown Drive

Warwick, RI 02888

(401) 467-5122

Pastor

Rev. Yohan Go

Music for Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold

Leader: We continue our movement through the Lent season 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 sayings that tell us if we just “think positively,” we can turn it all around. 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.

*“Good Enough”
Together (Lead by Alice Pace)*

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 and somehow, this faith is good enough.

Calling on God
Based on Psalm 27

Leader: Let us pray together:

**Holy One, Our Light and Salvation,
we call out to you,**

Make them be for us sustenance for our days,
love for simple and ordinary lives,
fuel for justice in this world.

By your Spirit open us to each other.
Open us to the world,
making us one in you,
through Christ,
in the power of your amazing grace!

Sing Together:
Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Communion

PRAYER

Closing Hymn/Song UMH #369 “Blessed Assurance

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 those who struggle to love are invited into greater compassion.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so,
We remember...
We offer ourselves ...
We proclaim God’s time...

**Christ has died, yet Christ is ris’n;
Christ will come once again!
We remember and proclaim
redeeming love.**

Let us Pray:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.

**sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.
Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths.
Open us this day to your grace and peace,
transform our frustrations
into simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

**Opening Hymn/Song
UMH# 395 “Take time to be Holy”**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: Even Jesus got dang frustrated when folks didn’t behave as he would have liked. We probably aren’t 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 (have you ever tried to herd chicks?). 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.

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

PASSING THE PEACE

WE PROCLAIM

The Word in Music

Video: "[Gonna Lay My Burden Down](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3JIWgiWB2M)"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3JIWgiWB2M>

Gospel Reading

Luke 13: 31-35

*At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away
from here, for Herod wants to kill you."*

*He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting
out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the
third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I
must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be
killed outside of Jerusalem.'*

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones
those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your*

Although we feel lost at times,
you are ever present.
We doubt, resist, turn away, and rage,
insistent on our own power to pull us through,
and yet sure that we are to blame,
making life seem like a confusing paradox.

But you are patient.
You are here to meet us—reside with us in strange and
alienating times,
always faithful, always present
in this Body...
in this Body.

And so,
together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory
along with all the saints:

**Holy, holy, God of Hosts!
Heav'n and earth sing out your name!
Blest are they who come today;
and take their place.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
He proclaimed freedom for the bound,
justice for the oppressed,
grace for the lost,
love for the prodigal.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus,
we can imagine and live into a community
where all who struggle are taken into loving arms

you need not be sure of yourself or your faith,
you need not feel whole and right with the world.

Jesus invited many to his tables
and in doing so, he assured them of their place
in the illogical reign of love and grace.
He just wanted them to be hungry for relationship—
hungry to look across a table into another's eyes,
to break open their lives,
and lift a cup in the midst of the hard times and hear,
“this is for all,
and so this is for you, beloved.”

Sing Together

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Holy Living God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
anytime and everywhere to give thanks to you.
You created this world full of so much beauty and sorrow
and called it Good. And called it Enough.

*children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and
you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you,
you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is
the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

“So much is out of our control.”

Prayers of the People

Sing Together

Though all along our daily pilgrim race
our treasures small and very few may be,
our souls are blest with God's unending grace,
and that is enough, enough for me.

Oh, that's enough for me,
God's truth has set me free;
the love of Christ has sanctified my soul,
and that is enough for me.

Leader: Sanctification, or the process of being set apart or made holy, is a theological concept that has been greatly debated over time—are we made holy in a once-and-done kind of way or are we always simply moving in that direction based on our merits? It is as if once the debate is settled, then we can know what to do and control the outcome of goodness for ourselves. And yet, if we worry less about our own sanctification 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.

Leader: In this moment we pray for all those who are in need of hope and love.

When you hear a prayer concern, please reply “Lord, hear our prayer.”

When you hear joy, reply “Praise God.”

Joy and Concern

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

That’s Enough For Me Sing Together

When food and raiment are not ever sure,
and simple fare is hard to get for some,
we work to share our goods with one and all,
and that is enough, enough for me.

Oh, that’s enough for me,
God’s truth has set me free;
a love like Christ’s is meant for ev’ry soul,
and that is enough for me.

Offering

Interlude **Alice Pace** “Until Jesus comes again”

Doxology
Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow,
Praise Three-in-One, from here below.**

Prayer after Offering

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.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”
W&S 3119

Leader: Christ looks upon each one with love and says,

People: “**you are welcome at my table.**”

Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,
“**whatever troubles you, bring it here.**”

Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,
“**whatever you’d like to leave behind, do it here.**”

Will you come?

Will you bring your troubles?

Will you shed all that is unnecessary in your life?

This is the place where you need not be perfect,