



Asbury United Methodist Church

April 9, 2023 9:30 A.M.

143 Ann Mary Brown Drive

Warwick, RI 02888

(401) 467-5122

Pastor

Rev. Yohan Go

WE GATHER

Music for Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Birthdays

- 9 Linda Ruscio
- 10 Don Biron
- 11 Scarlett Williams
- 14 Paul Anderson
- 15 Andrew Hallam
Rev. Elisabeth Smith

Threshold

Leader: During the season of Lent, and this last week in Holy Week, we focused on growing gardens, tending the life that is right in front of us, rather than constantly climbing ladders of what this world defines as success. 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. It 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.

***“Good Enough”
Together***

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 114

Leader: Let us pray together:

**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.
We shall not die, but live, for 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.**

Opening Hymn/Song

UMH 707 “The Hymn of Promise” vs 1,2,3

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Leader: Easter is tricky when it comes to faith. We come for the happy ending—the “and then they lived happily ever after.” 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 imagine in this silence the deep seed and shoot that is growing within you, yearning for light and life.

Silent Reflection

Leader: 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. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from
the fear of isolation and anguish at endings,
inviting us to community and creativity for birthing new life—
unexpected life, unending love.

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.**

The Peace

hands, placed between your palms as a prayer posture. And hear this blessing:

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.

Benediction

And now, may the God who loves all of creation,
especially the gardens we call our lives,
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

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

Baptism and Profession of Faith (Please see the screen)
Baptism Candidate: McKenna Williams
Profession of Faith: Weilezyr Krbah (Weillie)

Offering
Interlude – Warren Cole, “Blessed Assurance”

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.

Closing Hymn/Song
UMH 302 –“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” vs. 1,4,5

Leader: You have been given a packet of seeds. As we prepare to go out from this place, I invite you to hold that seed packet in your

WE PROCLAIM

Choir – “Oh Happy Day”

Gospel Reading
John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

"A Good Enough Faith"

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: "Christ has risen. He has risen indeed!" This simple confession of faith is good enough to sustain the flame of hope in dark times. We share the same confession of faith, and the divine flame of love and hope is within us. This is a good enough life. We also remember those who don't experience the power of resurrection moments. We offer our prayers for all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit – vowing to tend to those for whom deaths, of many kinds, seem near, with care.

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."

Joys and Concerns

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.