



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

March 9, 2025

Thoughts before worship: *Blessed are you who realize there is simply not enough—time, money, resources. Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection. It's not. And you know that now. Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today, God is here, and somehow, that is good enough.*

Prelude

Katie Barr

*Gathering

As we gather this morning for worship, let us rest in the blessed assurance that we are good, God will not let us go, and that, dear ones, is good enough.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, Oh what a foretaste of glory Divine

Heir of Salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood

The season of Lent has emerged over the centuries as a time of deep reflection. Originally a period of preparation for baptisms on Easter Eve, it later became a time for all Christians to take stock of their lives and examine how the connection to their faith was progressing—or not—and to recommit to a life of goodness. This year we will indeed open up and take stock. But rather than feel guilty, a most popular Lenten pastime, about what we have and have not accomplished in our lives and faith, we will spend some time questioning how our culture's obsession with achievement and perfection actually keeps us from the true depths of life and faith. This Lent, we'll turn ladder-climbing into soul-tending, nurturing our lives for growth, embracing our holy, "good enough," lives.

This is my story, this is my song; Praising my savior all the day long

This is my story, this is my song; Praising my savior all the day long

Let us pray together:

Holy One, Our Refuge and Shelter, we call out to you in all times -- praise, distress, and gratitude. Whether we perceive it or not, you are there. Open us this day to your presence -- in the smile of a friend or the call of a bird, an embrace or an act of service, in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

Welcome, a Word About Worship, and an Opportunity to Check-In

*Opening Hymn

Be Now My Vision

NCH 451

*Be now my vi-sion, O God of my heart; noth-ing sur-pass-es the love you im-part-
You my best thought, by day or by night, wak-ing or sleep-ing, your pres-ence my light.*

Be now my wis-dom, and be my true word; ev-er with-in me, my soul is as-sured;

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Note: *Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.*

Note 2: *The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD***

*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

*Moth-er and Fa-ther, you are both to me, now and for::cev-er your child I will be.
Rich-es I need not, nor life's emp-ty praise, you, my in-her-i-tance, now and al-ways;
You and you on-ly are first in my heart, great God, my trea-sure, may we nev-er part.
Sov-ereign of heav-en, my vic-to-ry won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav-en's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, what-ev-er be-fall, still be my vi-sion, O Rul-er of all.*

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

We find ourselves hungry for many things that we believe will bring us satisfaction. In today's Gospel, the devil lays a bet that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. Who wouldn't? But Jesus keeps up the pithy one-liners long enough that the Tempter just has to slink away. What are the temptations that catch your ear, singing out promises that your life should be, could be more special than it is? What if ordinary life is already holy—as is? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...*(Silent Reflection)*

Hear this compassionate word from the Letter to the Romans: "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Already, God is offering us freedom from the temptations of the "not enough-ness" of our time, inviting us to love and revere the seeming ordinariness of the day-to-day so that we might recognize its true beauty.

Despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new even now.

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

***Passing the Peace**

Children's Moment

Lent 2025 — Thrive and Flourish

Gifts for Appalachian Flood Relief and New American Welcome Center

Commissioning our Mission Team: Kristy Brownfield, Marla Elmore, Ann Hart, Ilsa Kantola, Sebastian Major, Brin Schuler, Chase Skye, Eric Hsu, Jeanne Ward, Tom Ward, David Willcox, and Pastor Leah

Team: We go to be present with one another and with those who host us.

Congregation: **Love God. Love Neighbor.**

Team: We go to make a change for good in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Congregation: **Love God. Love Neighbor.**

Team: We go to experience God in new and powerful ways.

Congregation: **Love God. Love Neighbor.**

Team: We go so we can come back, empowered to work for a just world for all.

Congregation: **We celebrate that we are connected to each other across different places and pray that those bonds will grow stronger through this mission experience. We rejoice that you will meet new neighbors in person and work together with them to embody God's love in that community. We commit to receive you and to be open to new ideas ourselves when you return to this community, empowered for long term involvement in change toward a just world for all. May, the love of neighbor be made real in this sharing and experience. As you go, we go with you: awed by God's wonder present with our prayers changed by your commitment and empowered to work together upon your return for a just world for all.**

Call to Prayer

Later in the service, we will offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the Sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.



Prelude to Scripture

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Gospels

Luke 4:1-13

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' ⁸Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' '

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",

¹¹and

"On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

¹²Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these of words for our lives.

Anthem

Ave Verum Corpus

CUCC Choir

Message

Thoughts about an imperfect Life and Faith: Ordinary lives can be holy

Quiet Meditation

Community Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Respon

Good Enough

CUCC Choir

Call to Offering

As we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we support the mission and ministry of this local church, our Community, as well as those working to ensure people can Thrive and Flourish in this life, both here and away. Offerings placed in the plates will go to CUCC while those placed in the globes will go to our Lenten Mission offering. You may also give online at community-ucc.org/give



Offertory

Lovely Needy People

CUCC Choir

Offertory Response

*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 of Dedication

Together we 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.

Commissioning of the Community

*Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH 436

*God of grace and God of glo-ry, on your peo-ple pour your power;
crown your an-cient church's sto-ry; bring its bud to glo-rious flower.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, for the fac-ing of this hour,
for the fac-ing of this hour.*

*From the e-vils that sur-round us and as-sail the Sav-ior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us- free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, for the liv-ing of these days,
for the liv-ing of these days.*

*Cure your chil-dren's war-ring mad-ness; bend our pride to your con-trol.
Shame our reek-less, self-ish glad-ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, make our bro-ken spir-its whole,
make our bro-ken spir-its whole.*

*Set our feet on loft-y plac-es; gird our lives that they may
ar-mored with all Christ-like grac-es, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, in the quest for lib-er-ty,
in the quest for lib-er-ty.*

*Save us from weak res-ig-na-tion to the -vils we de-plore;
let the search for your sal-va-tion be our glo-ry ev-er-more.
Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, serv-ing you whom we a-dore,
serv-ing you whom we a-dore.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

It Is Well with My Soul

CUCC Choir

Postlude

Katie Barr

Please join in the Parlor for the after party.

Acknowledgements

Liturgy adapted from worshipdesign-studio.mn.com Good Enough Lenten Series

Commissioning the Mission Team liturgy adopted from https://www.ucc.org/volunteer_mission-trip-opportunities_commissioning-and-covenant/

Anthem, "Ave Verum Corpus," W. A. Mozart

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Offertory, "Good Enough," Marcia McFee, Marsha Moor-Charles, Chuck Bell from worshipdesign-studio.mn.com Good Enough Lenten Series

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Presider and Preacher: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Brin Schuler
Ushers: Tom Ward, Kelly Tull **Greeter:** Jherilyn Tull

Accompanist: Katie Barr **Musicians:** Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir
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Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Susan Pawlicki*

Past Moderator: Julie McClure*

Incoming Moderator: Beth Hogan*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Stephen Kolderup

Community Building: Peg Wade*

- **Care Team:** (Coordinator Open)

- **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

- **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbennolt

- **Driver's Ministry:** Mary Bunyard

- **Visitor & Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrich

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Health and Wellness Team:** (Open)

- **Hospitality Team:** Rocio (Ro) Arroyave Jamison and Dennis Jamison

Children & Family: Alison Anders* and Kelly Tull

Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)

Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald

Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Patty Gropp

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Shane Brownfield* and Sue Fristoe

- **Buildings & Grounds:** Tom Ward and (Open)

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*

Worship: Mara Smith* and Sebastian Major

- **Sound Coordinator:** Roger Wade

*denotes Church Life Board Member

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