

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Good Enough:
Embracing Faith and Life*

Second Sunday of Lent

"Out of Our Control"

THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW.

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

MARCH 13, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGICAL COLOR: BURLAP

PRELUDE Beth Maier

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Lib Norton

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ Lib Norton

L: The race is set before us.

C: We journey with Jesus to places unknown

L: Soon we will arrive in Jerusalem

C: But Jerusalem is noted for killing the prophets and those whom God sends.

L: Fear not! God is with us and will guide us on this journey of faith.

C: We place ourselves completely in God's care. Amen

OPENING PRAYER² Lib Norton

Lord, we come to you this morning with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, that others may be healed. In Jesus' name, we pray. **AMEN.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH NO. 882** "Apostle's Creed Ecumenical Version" Lib Norton

***PSALTER & RESPONSE NO. 758** Lib Norton

***HYMN NO. 140** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS

CONFESSION & PARDON

Pastor: Even Jesus got 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

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Debra

***HYMN NO. 301** "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" NEAR THE CROSS

OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Debra

*DOXOLOGY NO. 95

OLD 100th

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:31-35

SERMON

"Out of Our Control"

Pastor Debra

A BLESSING FOR A JOYFULLY UNPREDICTABLE JOURNEY

*"Blessed are you who realize that life often is out of our control..
"Blessed are you who see things clearly, where struggle is everyone's normal.
Blessed are all of us who struggle, for we are in good company,
we'll never walk alone and that is good enough"*

*HYMN NO. 419

"I Am Thine"

I AM THINE

*BENEDICTION³

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the ordinary parts, 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.

*POSTLUDE

Beth Maier

**If you are able, please stand.*

¹ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3570>

² Ibid.

³ All liturgy and leader parts not otherwise referenced Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough Used and adapted with permission.

"A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey" from [Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](http://www.katebowler.com/goodenough) by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission. Purchase the book at www.katebowler.com/goodenough.

OUR PRAYER LIST – Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT's, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jane Campbell, Mabel Foster, Jim Bennett, Phillip Caulder, Scott Tomberlin, Tony Thrailkill, Theodore Burns, Margaret Stanton, Mary Snookie Lomas, Nancy Chestnut (Michelle Rohde's mother), Pat Barham, Dan Ellenburg (Patty Fisher's brother-in-law), Daryl Stubbs, Rachel Smith (Brenda Rayfield's friend) Angie Smith. **NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**