

The Lord Went to a Dinner

The Lord went to a dinner, and Mary took perfume.
As she anointed Jesus, the fragrance filled the room.
She'd sat as a disciple, she'd been a faithful friend,
and now, with costly fragrance, she honored Christ again.

Soon Judas was complaining, "This gift could have been sold;
We could have helped the poor here — the young ones and the old.

Yet Jesus said, "My people will always help the poor,
but Mary chose to give this — to me, her dying Lord."

Her gift was her expression of thankfulness and praise,
and so it makes us wonder, in these long Lenten days:

What would we give to Jesus if he sat at our meal?
What gift would be our kindness and what would it reveal?

O Lord, today we offer the best that we can bring —
our worship as a fragrance, our love, an offering.

And now, as we're reminded the poor are with us still,
we pray that we may serve them — to honor you, as well.

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940
781-334-3050 [www. Centre-Church.org](http://www.Centre-Church.org)
We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

The Rev. Nancy Rottman, Senior Pastor
Laraine Wilson, Director of Faith Formation
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



LENT 5
"WE ARE FRAGILE"
10:00 AM

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts
April 3, 2022

WE GATHER

Prelude

Ah, Holy Jesus

McDonald

Welcome and Announcements

We Cross the Threshold

Good Enough

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

Opening Prayer

Jeff Law

Let us pray together:

Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you. You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy – the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

Mini Message

"I'm Wilting"

Allison Barbieri and Katie Swayne-Gerrish

*stand as you are able

Worship Notes:

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Thy Will Be Done
A Holy Week Cantata by Lani Smith
Narration by the Rev. William H. Privette

presented by
The Centre Church Choir

Palm Sunday, April 10
10:00 am
In-person or Livestream



Blessing of the Elements
Communion Prayer
Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Grow in us that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

#488

(Livestream worshippers - see below)

A Blessing for When You're in Grief

Benediction

Choral Reprise

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

Postlude

Majestic Postlude

Williams



Our ushers today are David Bjorkman and Lauren Patriquin-Muise

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Mary Esther Zaik, in loving memory of her husband, Don.

Opening Hymn

**The Lord Went to a Dinner*

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
See back of bulletin

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

Honest Question

Rev. Nancy

Silent Reflection

Compassionate Response

Rev. Nancy

Hear this compassionate word from Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ's vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps,
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

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

WE PROCLAIM

The Word in Music

All My Trials
Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

Luboff
Jeff Law

Response

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

Thoughts about an Imperfect Life and Faith

"We Are Fragile"

Rev. Nancy Rottman

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

A Word About Fragility

Rev. Nancy

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.

Intercessions

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory

Said Judas to Mary

Carter

*Hymn of Praise (unison)

Tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Living God, whom we adore**

Prayer of Dedication

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

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

P: you are welcome at my table."

L: Christ looks upon each one with compassion and says,

P: "whatever troubles you, bring it here."

L: Christ looks upon each one with grace and says,

P: "whatever you'd like to leave behind, leave it here."

Be Still, My Soul

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past;
your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

Be still, my soul; the hour will soon be here
when we shall be with God whom we adore,
when disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still my soul; when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.