

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections
of Life and Faith

Lent 5

"We are fragile."



April 3, 2022

"We Are Fragile"

John 12:1-8

**THORNDALE
United Methodist Church**

3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372

610-384-2433

www.thorndaleumc.org

All Are Welcome!

*“When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.”*

Psalm 126

+Stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

Tim Eaton

WELCOME & THRESHOLD

Pastor Shauna

The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last. In this fifth week of the Lent season, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. As we will see, Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death. Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong. We all know that isn't always how the story goes. We are fragile. Our lives, like the plants in the gardens we tend, are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live.

+CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Pat Moore

Leader: 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.
Let us pray together.

People: **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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pat Moore & Paul Voorhees

PASSING THE PEACE

Pat Moore

Leader: The joy and peace of the Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

+OPENING PRAISE

Shout to the Lord

Tim Eaton & Team

Reign in Us

We Fall Down

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Pastor Shauna

OFFERTORY—

Living Hope

Tim Eaton & Team

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pat Moore

Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings, no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives might be, we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE—**John 12:1-8**

Pat Moore

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it^[c] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord that is still speaking.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“We Are Fragile”

Pastor Shauna

HONEST QUESTIONS

SILENT REFLECTION

COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

LEADER: 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.

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION

+CLOSING HYMN

Great Are You Lord

Tim Eaton & Team

+BENEDICTION

Pastor Shauna

POSTLUDE

Tim Eaton

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

MESSAGE	Rev. Shauna K. Ridge	WORSHIP TEAM SHEPHERDS:	
MUSIC	Tim Eaton & Team	GREETER	Hannah Smith
LITURGIST	Pat Moore	ATTENDANCE	Hannah Smith
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE	Pat Moore & Paul Voorhees		
TECH TEAM	Josh Dwyer	USHER 1	Wayne Barrows
	Terry Moore	USHER 2	Cyndy Weiner