***Small Group Session:* Week of Lent 2**

“So much is out of our control.”

**Opening**

*Leader:* We are on a reflective journey together during the Lent season with the book *Good Enough: 40’ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. In our Lent 2 worship, we were reminded that "so much is out of our control.”

Here is an excerpt from the scripture:

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” - excerpt from Luke 13: 31-35.*

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 light a candle, take a deep breath, and pray:

**Holy One, Our Light and Salvation,**

**we call out to you,**

**sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.**

**Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths.**

**Open us this day to your grace and peace,**

**transform our frustrations**

**into simple and good enough moments that fill our days.**

**Amen.**

**Sharing**

*Leader:* In our conversation, everyone is invited to share, but sharing is not required. Please make room for all voices, keeping your contribution to a respectful time limit so everyone has a chance. Whatever is said here stays here – not because we are telling secrets but because we honor that what a person says here is their story to share.

I invite you to share something from the devotions in the book you read so far that resonated with you, hit you as truth in your own life and faith, was funny or painful, or made you think about your own experience. What struck you this week as “good enough?” These are just suggestions… feel free to share whatever is bubbling up around this topic.

*[after all have shared who want to…]*

*Leader:* A question for the group–why do you think we so often try to control things that are uncontrollable? What do you do or say to yourself when you notice that you are getting frustrated that life is not the way YOU want it to be?

**Closing**

*Choose one of the blessings from the devotions in the book to read as a closing.*

*Then read this benediction, taken from our weekly worship, together…*

**And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially when it’s painful,**

**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.**