***Small Group Session:* Week of Lent 3**

“Lots of things can be medicine”

**Opening**

*Leader:* In our Lent 3 worship, we were reminded that "lots of things can be medicine.”

Here is an excerpt from the scripture:

*Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’” - excerpt from Luke 13: 1-9*

Oh, the shame of being an unproductive fig tree! Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! Who among us is living up to our fullest potential?

Productivity experts these days can diagnose what’s wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gardener offers an alternative medicine–nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the crappy stuff of life can help heal what ails us. Is this not sometimes productive enough?

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

**Holy One, Our Balm, Our Feast,**

**we lift our hands and call your name,**

**in need of healing–thirsting and hungry.**

**Your steadfast love is better than life.**

**Open us this day to your nourishment**

**in the songs of the land, in the beauty of the sky–**

**in the 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–What productivity expectations exist in our lives? How do they hold us captive? And what damage do you think this does to our sense of worth?

**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, and you–without price,**

**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.**