

Enough for Today

Most churches carry fear quietly. It doesn't usually announce itself as fear. It sounds practical. Responsible. Sensible.

It sounds like: *We don't have enough people. We don't have enough money. We don't have enough energy. We don't have enough leaders. We don't have enough time.* And the longer a congregation carries that fear, the more normal it begins to feel. Not dramatic. Just... constant.

At some point, fear stops being something we notice and becomes something that shapes us – how we plan, what we risk, what we avoid, what we quietly grieve before it's even gone.

That kind of fear is not sinful. It's learned.

We live in a world that teaches us scarcity early and often. A world that measures worth by growth, productivity, and comparison. A world that assumes survival is the goal. So, of course, the church absorbs that story too.

But the gospel keeps telling a different one.

This week in *The Serviceberry*, the word we're listening for is enough. Not barely getting by. Not hanging on. Not shrinking carefully.

Enough. And that word matters, because *enough* is not the same as survival. Survival narrows us. Enough opens us. Survival asks, *What can we afford to lose?* Enough asks, *What has already been given?* Survival makes fear the motivator. Enough makes trust possible.

In Scripture, God rarely promises “more.” God promises *presence*. Daily bread. Green pastures. A table prepared. A crowd fed because people shared what they had.

Enough is not excess. Enough is sufficiency held in relationship.

That’s what Robin Wall Kimmerer is pointing to as well. In a gift economy, “enough” is never owned by one person. It exists between people.

And that’s where this becomes very real for a church like ours. Because “enough” is not something one person carries. It’s something a community holds together. Think about how often this congregation quietly compensates for one another’s limits. Someone shows up early because someone else can’t. Someone brings food because someone else is tired. Someone remembers what needs doing when someone else forgets. Someone gives time. Someone gives care. Someone gives patience. No one person is enough. Together, you are.

That shared sufficiency matters, especially for longtime members. Because fear often sounds like this: *If I don’t do it, it won’t get done. If I stop, everything will fall apart.*

But enough says something different: *You are not alone. You were never meant to carry this by yourself.*

One of the quiet gifts of trusting “enough” is that it releases people from silent burden. It allows a congregation to stop measuring itself against what it used to be or what it thinks it should be. And that is not giving up. That is telling the truth.

Another hard truth we're invited to face this week is that some of the measures we've relied on were never very faithful to begin with.

Attendance. Size. Number of programs. Comparison to the past or to other churches. Those measures come easily. They also distort easily. They train us to see loss where there may actually be transformation, and failure where there may be faithfulness.

Gratitude gives us a different lens. Gratitude doesn't ignore reality.

It changes what we notice. Instead of asking, *What are we losing?* gratitude asks, *What is still being given?* Instead of asking, *How do we survive?* gratitude asks, *Where is God still at work among us?*

Most congregations can answer that question if they're willing to remember. Remembering matters. Because this church has stories where "enough" arrived without being planned or predicted. Times when help showed up. When leadership emerged. When resources came from unexpected places. When something opened just when it needed to.

Those stories are not nostalgia. They are testimony. They remind us that fear has never had the final word.

Which brings us to the heart of today's invitation. What would it mean for this congregation to say – quietly, honestly, without bravado – We have enough to be faithful. Not enough to do everything. Not enough to be everything. Enough to be *this* church, in *this* place, for *this* time.

Enough to worship. Enough to care. Enough to welcome. Enough to share responsibility. Enough to trust that God is still present here.

Enough is not limitation. Enough is freedom. Freedom from frantic striving. Freedom from fear-based decisions. Freedom to choose joy, hospitality, and care. Enough lets a church breathe again.

The question before us is not whether we will ever have more. The question is whether we can live faithfully with what has already been entrusted to us. Daily bread. Shared work. Steady presence.

Enough for today. And for today, that is grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.