



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

**Saturday, May 2, 2020**

Luke 15:1-7 <https://tinyurl.com/y94tsgjk>

***Ponder***

Some of us have lost beloved children, spouses, relationships, jobs, and some of us have searched, longing to be reunited for what feels like and may be years. Some of us have found our lives again, and some of us who have been lost are now found. The longing to be reunited can be one of most intense experiences of suffering. And yet we live.

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7uk6wj>

***Pray***

Holy One, we search and search for the ones we love and miss. We long for what has been lost and rejoice at the sweetness of union when it occurs. Our souls sometimes can only be satisfied when we have found You, and when we have been found by you. Remind us, how you will never let us go. <https://tinyurl.com/yd2nctjr>

***Act***

Go through photo albums or your phones and search for photo memories. Find one that makes you rejoice, and set it out, or make it your wallpaper to enjoy for a while.

***Family***

Plan a treasure hunt in your home, yard or neighborhood, keeping safe distance at all times, of course. Choose common objects or sights to find, and help the little ones.

**Monday, April 27, 2020**

Genesis 18:1-14 <https://tinyurl.com/yd3pputx>

***Ponder***

In this passage Sarah laughs at the promise made that when the angel men return she shall have a son. But she also remarks “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” This almost seems to her to be a greater impossibility. It is as if both hope and joy are impossible at a certain age. She responds to the idea with incredulity and scoffing. But God will show her! At what visions of hope and joy do you scoff? What possibilities have you abandoned? Where have you canceled your own life?

<https://tinyurl.com/yadagxhr>

***Pray***

Lord, Lord, we imagine you to be as limited as we are, unable to confound the laws of life and death. But since the time of Abraham and Sarah you have surprised us. You want us to live again? And enjoy it? Can you show us the way or do you leave us to discover it?

***Act***

Make a list of things that once brought you pleasure but which you have stopped. How can you experience a kind of resurrection of joy? With adaptations if necessary! Laugh if you must but only in delight!

***Family***

Sort through toys, books and belongings that no longer bring joy, or with which no one has played for a while. Hide them from yourselves for a time. Maybe set an alarm to remind yourself to look at them again in a span of time. What do you rejoice to see again? <https://tinyurl.com/yakp9z38>

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

Proverbs 8:32-9:6 <https://tinyurl.com/y9mjpy98>

***Ponder***

Wisdom calls from the highest place in town, inviting the simple to eat and drink with her, to learn and survive. How do you feel when invited to learn new things? Are you one of those people hungry for understanding? Or do you get mad thinking since you didn't know it already it must not be true? What is your approach to Wisdom? Do you like a challenge? What is God's approach?

## **Pray**

Oh God, we are frightened by things we don't understand. We make up stories, close our eyes and ears, pretend to know and sometimes even mislead others. You invite us to new understanding, and resurrect us from the early death of our minds and hearts. We are aghast at what we have not understood. But actually, it is terrifying to know your ways.

<https://tinyurl.com/ybh1r34a>

## **Act**

What new idea have you dismissed? What intellectual challenge have you abandoned to someone else? Where have you given up the expertise your life deserves? Read a book. Pay attention to international news. Practice the piano again. Push yourself outside the box you were closing around you. A puzzle for you. <https://tinyurl.com/yxwvdavq> (I know, too hard at first).

## **Family**

Let everyone pick something fairly small they believe is too hard. Now think together: what would it take to get it done? What kind of skills or tools would help? Friends? Education? Can anyone help another?

## **Wednesday April 29, 2020**

John 21:1-14 <https://tinyurl.com/y9wgfcav>

## **Ponder**

What would it take for you to recognize God With Us? A boatload of fish? Winning the lottery? Finding the person of your dreams? Jesus is recognized by the abundance of fish and in the way he offered breakfast to his disciples. Whose breakfast did you fix today? Did they recognize you?

<https://tinyurl.com/y9tz6pzk>

## **Pray**

Loving God, sometimes the emptiness of our nets is our focus and we fail to see your gifts of good fish. Sometimes it is the servant among us whom we overlook, who smiles at us with your eyes. What would it mean if we saw you today? How would we recognize you?

## **Act**

Go outside and listen. Do you hear the children playing their games? Do you see the man mowing a neighbor's lawn? Here comes the mail carrier. Ask yourself, is this Jesus in disguise? Ask yourself, is this the kingdom of heaven? <https://tinyurl.com/yb4wg5m3>

## **Family**

If you can, build a campfire (safely) and cook some fish as you read this story several times. Look at each other. Is Jesus among you?

<https://tinyurl.com/yb4wg5m3> (Reminder, you can skip the ads).

## **Thursday, April 30, 2020**

Psalm 23 <https://tinyurl.com/y8drl6tl>

## **Ponder**

This is the psalm we decided to memorize in our house church. This is the psalm I recited as I got ready for surgery. This is the psalm I puzzle over too often. When do I walk through the valley of the shadow of death? When do I Fear no evil? Why can't I remember the sequence sometimes? Check out the many versions and translations available. Are you remembering the one that speaks to you?

## **Pray**

Restoring my soul, dear God, is what I need the most. I cannot be restored without you. <https://tinyurl.com/ybo6tgsb> (Remember, you can skip the ads).

## **Act**

When was the last time you ate with enemies? Had your head anointed with oil? Felt so loved the cup of your heart overflowed with joy? Try one of these things and see if you can tell that God is with you.

## **Family**

Watch this, and then feed each other. <https://tinyurl.com/y7blfw43>

Enjoy yourselves.

## **Friday, May 1, 2020**

1 Peter 2:13-17 <https://tinyurl.com/y8fefjvn>

## **Ponder**

What does it mean to live as a people who are free? Does that mean we follow no rules? Or live according only to our desires? Does that mean we are free to say "no" to every request for support or sacrifice? What does it mean to live as free people within the rule of law, or within the Kingdom of God? <https://tinyurl.com/ybyuxw7c>

## **Pray**

Lord, Lord, your death has set us free, but we can not comprehend this new reality. Free for love, free for community, free for forgiveness, free to keep promises, free to be generous, free to take rest. Help us understand this gift.

## **Act**

Make a list of all your shoulds. Now organize your list: what must you keep and what can you give away? "Shoulding" on yourself should be limited to 15 minutes a day max.

## **Family**

If Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall and Nazis aren't too scary, look into watching "To Have and Have Not." Freedom AND relationship are chosen over and over. <https://tinyurl.com/lblosj3>