



# GOBIN CHURCH

A United Methodist Community for All

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**

Luke 14:12-14

<https://tinyurl.com/ycgh4dvw>

### **Ponder**

How far out do you look when you want to join in giving new life to others? Are there any among us writing rules or policies right now, that might affect the happiness or even the lives of others? Do I want even strangers to have access to healthcare? Shall I participate in providing excellent education for children who are not my own? Am I concerned about the suffering in the world enough to share my resources?

### **Pray**

It is hard to share our limited resources for the good of others. It is even harder to share our wealth for some reason. Holy One, open our hearts, and make us generous whether we have little or lots. Amen.

### **Act**

Pay attention to policies being developed in our country. Assess them for their trust, kindness, generosity and stewardship of resources. Those things can go together! Look at the rules in your own life, home, family, church, city, state.

### **Family**

Discuss what makes rules fair and just. Ask for explanations of opinions. Develop family “policies” that give clarity and meaning to daily life, chores, practices and pray for integrity plus generosity together. “101 Dalmatians” is a family movie with many acts of kindness (though I have been haunted a bit through the years by Cruella Deville (or is it D’Evil?))

**Monday, April 20, 2020**

Psalm 114

<https://tinyurl.com/ycl8qe75>

### **Ponder**

I love the image of the mountains skipping like rams, though I am pretty sure this is meant to describe a powerful force that moved them. What mountains have been moved in your life? What rough places made plain?

By Eric Gill

<https://tinyurl.com/ycd2tq65>

### **Pray**

Holy One, you amaze me. Your wonders surround me. Your mercy envelopes me. Your patience instructs me. Guide me through this path. Amen.

### **Act**

What have you encountered as an obstacle recently? Stop now, and quit being frustrated by it. What opportunity does it offer you? There is always a way.

### **Family**

Ponder together. What is a mountain for one of you? Who can help? Now the next person share. Who can help? When is God the only one? Give it to God.

**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**

Jonah 1

<https://tinyurl.com/y8bd89tf>

### **Ponder**

I love this story, mainly because of the sailors who try to save Jonah, though he has risked all their lives. But also because I have also run away from God, sometimes just in refusing to trust myself. Today this story speaks to me because Jonah gets several chances to do the right thing. From Peter Lastman

<https://tinyurl.com/ybycvvfo>

### **Prayer**

Holy One, I may have missed some of your invitations to “do the right thing.” Thanks for the second, and third, and 45th chance. Amen.

### **Act**

You know what it is that God has been asking you to do. Go ahead. Here is a review of a hard film to watch, not for children, about a boiling day (in hell?) or the ways that Nineveh is still waiting for us to bring God’s word.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7rcq597>

### **Family**

This is a perfect Bible story for acting out. Have the best tantrum maker play Jonah.

### **Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

Matthew 12:38-42 <https://tinyurl.com/ybhypjlv>

#### ***Ponder***

There have been a few deaths in my life, both professionally (as a hospital chaplain) and personally, after which I wondered, “ And on the third day? Dear God, what happens then?” Many of us now have been socially isolating for more than 3 days. Who among us has experienced this as a belly of the whale, or death experience?

#### ***Pray***

Holy One, we shall soon be free, but will we be glad to continue on the path of resurrection and hope? Or shall we return, with relief, back to the old ways? Amen.

#### ***Act***

We all want hard times to be over. But look at the earth, and its newfound health, while we isolated ourselves. It's beauty has been resurrected. What permanent change will you make, to keep what is good?

<https://tinyurl.com/yapnylxd>

#### ***Family***

Take a poll. What one change is each member of the family willing to protect and preserve? Make a pact.....

### **Thursday, April 23, 2020**

Isaiah: 25:1-5 <https://tinyurl.com/y7kzsvot>

#### ***Ponder***

The song of the ruthless is stilled. Recently we have been amazed by the compassion AND the ruthlessness we have witnessed in the world. It has been as if humanity has shown all its truth starkly in a couple of months. Before, and during, and hopefully after this time, we have found comfort and inspiration and sometimes brave truth in what may not be such an unusual place: The US Farm Report, specifically one of their hosts and commentator John Phipps. A United Methodist, we discovered to our delight, and a farmer in Chrisman, IL, John's pieces speak truth about the economy, the integrity and community to which humans are called, the impact of policies and trade wars and what tariffs really accomplish. This is a breath of fresh air on Saturdays at 5:30AM and a pleasant surprise in the midst of economic and health concerns. Here is a link to one of his more humorous articles on AgWeb. <https://tinyurl.com/ycqzp2y9>

#### ***Pray***

Holy One, you are a refuge for the needy, and we are all recognizing our deep needs these days: for family and friends, for health and safety, for community and beauty, for the ability to rescue one another as you have rescued us from ourselves. We thank you. Amen.

#### ***Act***

Can you see around you someone in need of a rescue you could provide? A dog that needs walking because her friend cannot get out easily? A lonely acquaintance who needs a letter? A phone bill that needs to be paid? Maybe just a word of thanks as you “let there be dark” for resting from the ruthlessness. (See John Phipps above).

#### ***Family***

Watch some news together...not too much. Point out the places where you can see compassion and where you see ruthlessness. Teach your children and your elders to know the difference.

### **Friday, April 24, 2020**

1 Peter 1:13-16 <https://tinyurl.com/y8c4d7hw>

#### ***Ponder***

“Be holy yourselves, in all your conduct.” How in heaven's name will we manage that? On Fridays we look forward to the weekend. We can also look back and do a weekly review. I love planning and I love reflecting, but it is not in either of those two activities that I practice my holy conduct. That happens in my doing: seasoning the food I cook with love, making sure the old blind dog gets his share of treats, even making our bed so it is once again a haven for us at the end of the day. Wearing my mask to protect others in case I am sick and don't know it yet, is another way. Tiny things that still bring healing and bring peace. I know though that some of you are on the frontlines fighting the virus. Your work is holy at a whole other magnitude.

#### ***Pray***

Holy One, we give you thanks for those among us doing your holy work at risk to themselves and the ones they love. Help us support them. We give you thanks, also, for the tiny ways we can live your love, if only we are mindful. Amen.

#### ***Act***

Is there a holy way to wash the dishes? It might be getting to them first! A holy way to mow the grass? It might mean pausing to talk to the neighborhood kids who call out, “Hey, old man!” It might mean standing in a driveway across the street so your mother can look out of her third floor window and see you when you call.

***Family*** <https://tinyurl.com/y7n5qnkl>

Holy conduct can be courageous action, speaking truth when afraid or guilty, sacrificing for another, of simple acts of kindness. Here is a printable chart to keep track of those kind acts in the days ahead. Let little ones choose a color to identify their stars when they have been kind, and celebrate with them.