



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

**Saturday, July 25, 2020:**

Matthew 12:38-42 Common English Bible (CEB)

<https://tinyurl.com/yxbranx9>

***Ponder:***

The outlines of traffic signs are one of the questions on a driving exam. A few years ago, a friend had to take the test after his license expired. He was surprised and upset that he missed a few of the sign shape questions. After all, he had been driving for years and didn't even need to think about the meaning of the signs along the road. Sometimes we get so used to seeing something, we overlook the meaning behind it. When I use post-it notes to remind myself of something, I've found the note, or sign, is only good for a couple of days, because after that I start to overlook it. When Jesus is talking about signs in today's Scripture, he knows the truth that the questioners want is already in front of them. How many signs did they need? Do you look for signs?

***Prayer:***

Dear God, When I help people and talk about your goodness in my life, let that be a sign of hope to others. Use me to encourage others to look to you for comfort and joy. Amen.

***Action:***

Leave a few post-it notes in places with messages that remind people that God loves them, and that Jesus is a friend to all.

**Monday, July 20, 2020:**

Psalms 139:13-18 <https://tinyurl.com/yya4z744>

***Ponder:***

God promises that there is nothing wrong with me. I am perfect just the way God made me. Yet sometimes when I look in the mirror, I find it hard to affirm that truth. My teeth are no longer straight. My hair color has faded. More wrinkles are visible. Even when my self-talk is positive, there are times that judgment by others brings me down. People judge one another on our color, gender, sexual preference, size, occupation, family and marital status, financial status, religion, and where we were born. I must remember that God erases all of that, and God reminds us that we are made in God's image. We are knit together with no stitch out of place. We are intricately woven by the master craftsperson. We are perfect because we are God's. Today's Scripture is a message of truth we all need to hear.

***Prayer:***

Dear God, Creator of perfection and lover of the imperfect. Thank you for the lines of character that mark my face, and the way you have stitched me together. May I uplift someone today so they, too, feel they are perfect the way you made them. Amen.

***Action:***

Learn about organizations that advocate for people who face discrimination based on race, gender or sexual preference. Acknowledge we are all made in God's image. If available, sign up for newsletters from an organization so you can follow new issues.

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020:**

Genesis 33:1-17 <https://tinyurl.com/yya4z744>

***Ponder:***

Family reunions can bring joyful anticipation at playing with cousins not frequently seen. Sometimes the years have also soothed long ago arguments. In today's Scripture, Jacob has come to realize that what he needed was God's blessings and not any blessings he could manipulate on his own. Jacob also bought land in the Promised Land as a sign he accepted God's plan. He also sought reconciliation with his brother. It's not always an easy thing to go home and face the past. It is good to know we can trust the God is with us on our journey.

***Prayer:***

Dear God, Getting together in person with friends and family has been difficult this year because of the pandemic. I pray for an end to this pandemic and healing for those affected. Amen.

***Action:***

Get in touch with friends and family through Zoom meetings or social media or a letter sent via snail mail. Let them know you look forward to seeing them in the future, and that you pray for them."

**Wednesday, July 22, 2020:**

Psalm 75

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+75&version=CEB>

***Ponder:***

Justice will be established when God determines the time is right, the Psalmist said. Thankfully, Jesus was big on justice, so that means the time is always right for justice. Too often, though, it seems people mean "just us" when they talk about fairness of the law or social expectations. This past week, civil rights legend John Lewis went home to glory after a life well lived seeking justice, fairness and equality for all people. Lewis was arrested several times as he challenged segregation and racist norms across southern states. He continued to advocate for justice through non-violent action throughout his life into the current day unrest. His thoughtfulness and intention are the type of challenges that Jesus modeled. May we also know that establishing justice takes our efforts and non-violent action.

***Prayer:***

Dear God, Help me stand up for justice in my community. Open my mouth and give me words to speak to local and state-level leaders about justice issues. Amen.

***Action:***

Make or buy a yard sign you can display with a message of justice, peace and/or love for your community.

### **Thursday, July 23, 2020:**

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

<https://tinyurl.com/y6l22935>

#### ***Ponder:***

Praising God for when things go well in our lives seems to come easy. Praising God in the difficult times can take more determination. The definition of praise is to express warm approval or admiration. When we praise our children, we acknowledge that they did something worthy of recognition. We may say things like, "Well done!" or "Great game!" The world offers awards, pay raises, trophies, and ceremonies as celebratory praise of great accomplishments. But, how do we express warm approval and admiration of God? One of the ways we can praise God is by recognizing his role in our lives by telling others about God and the ways God works in our lives. When we build pillars of remembrance by sharing our testimony with our children, we praise him.

#### ***Prayer:***

Dear God, Thank you for your guidance and support, for the challenges and successes, for the failures and the learning experienced every day. Thank you for your continued presence in my life. Amen.

#### ***Action:***

If you are grateful for your life's blessings and want to thank God for them, you can express your thanks in prayers. Spend a few moments every night to say a small "thank you" to God, and not just for your successes. Offer your thanks even when you fail. Failures are the stepping stones to success.

### **Friday, July 24, 2020:**

Acts 7:44-53 Common English Bible (CEB)

<https://tinyurl.com/y3wo2xmt>

#### ***Ponder:***

How do you confine and attempt to control God? What boxes do you put God into that limit God's magnificence, mystery and power? Those questions come to mind after reading today's Scripture. And still more questions show up. Do I only look for God in certain places in my life? Do I expect God to avoid some places because they aren't safe or friendly or attractive?

#### ***Prayer:***

Dear God, Indeed, heaven is your throne and the earth is your footstool. You are welcome in my home, and I will look for you in all the places I find myself today. Amen.

#### ***Action:***

Paint the words "God is here" on small stones and leave these stones in places where they can be found such as flowerboxes, shelves and windowsills.