



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

PRAYER:

God of the Ages, Thank you for sustaining your children through our joys and sorrows, our weaknesses and strengths, our sins and our repentance. You have shared a beautiful environment with us. Forgive us for failing to respect it as your creation. Amen.

PURPOSE:

Hug a tree. Feel the life in it. Listen to the world around it. Examine the natural world around you, and say out loud a prayer of thanks to God.

Saturday, November 14, 2020:

Matthew 12:43-45 <https://tinyurl.com/y3sr98a3>

PONDER:

The Greek philosopher Aristotle in the fourth century developed a hypothesis about the characteristic of space. He wrote that “nature abhors a vacuum.” The principle was that as soon as an area is emptied of content, something will come along to fill up that space. (No, he wasn’t talking about our closets.) Jesus described a parallel spiritual principle. He spoke of a person who had been freed from the influence of an evil spirit. While this was a victory, it also created a condition of vulnerability, for something or someone would fill that empty space. Jesus described how, if that person did not take action to replace the evil influence with the power of God, that spirit would return and find its former home “empty, swept, and in order.” It would bring along with it seven spirits that were even more evil. Thus “that person is worse off than before.” We are often subject to attack from negative influences, but we don’t have to live in fear of relapse. Today, don’t allow yourself to be empty and vulnerable. Ask God to fill you anew with His Spirit.

PRAYER:

Dear God, I’ve opened up space for new experiences of your love and grace. Guide me on how I store these experiences, and direct me in how to take these experiences out of my closet to use for the building up of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

PURPOSE:

Bake some cookies or make a healthy snack to deliver to someone going through a challenge. Include a note of encouragement, and a testimony of how God’s Love can fill the vacant spaces in our lives.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

Monday, November 9, 2020:

1 Corinthians 14:20-25 <https://tinyurl.com/y4epa6bz>

PONDER:

Someone once said that the New Testament is like a body of water. It is both shallow enough that a baby could splash around in it safely, but also so deep a skilled diver could descend to great depths in pondering the subtleties of God’s salvation. In other words, the gospel is simple, and yet it is amazingly complex. In his letters to the early church, Paul urges believers not to be satisfied with only what is simple. The idea is to keep exploring, keep growing, keep maturing. Let’s keep what we have already attained, says Paul, but let’s also keep moving forward into ever greater truths about God and Jesus Christ!

PRAYER:

Let us love you, dear God, with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Show us your truths so that we can celebrate them and tell others of them every day. In Christ, Amen.

PURPOSE:

Is there a book of the New Testament that you struggle to understand? Find an online commentary about that book to study so your understanding grows.

Tuesday, November 10, 2020:

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 <https://tinyurl.com/y2m3bvpq>

PONDER:

This text is a reminder that it is hard to be apart from the people that we love. We have all had times where we have had to travel or be away and we miss our friends and our family.

Thankfully, many of us can pick up our cellphones and send a text message or video chat. Yet, it's still not the same. Imagine Paul who wanted to visit his friends and fellow believers in Thessalonica, but he couldn't get away. Still he blessed them with encouragement — a gift that is so important in our lives. Encouragement is a gift in the home, the workplace, the church — wherever we find ourselves. We can come alongside others and be there for one another. We can listen, comfort, console, affirm. It's a way of living out the command to love one another. Take time to recall the people who've been encouragers in your life. They're the ones who were there when you thought you'd never laugh again. They were the ones who listened to you when others just talked. Then ask yourself, "When was the last time I encouraged someone?" It's not difficult, and the people you encourage are so blessed by it.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, help me to recognize the struggler or the lonely—anyone who needs your encouragement of love and hope today. In your name, Amen.

PURPOSE:

Be an encourager today. Send a message to let someone know you care and want them to be happy and blessed.

Wednesday, November 11, 2020:

Matthew 24:29-35 <https://tinyurl.com/y6mkezeq>

PONDER:

Living in anticipation. These verses remind us we don't know the day or time when we will meet Jesus face-to-face, but we can feel greatness approaching. Every day. I like the description of anticipation that A.A. Milne uses in the classic story of Winnie-the-Pooh. "Well," said Pooh, "what I like best," and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called. I wonder ... maybe it's called Kingdom-building as we live lives of peace, justice, mercy, hope, faith ... and anticipate the taste of glory that is to come.

PRAYER:

Dear God, Like sweet honey gathered from the wildflowers of your kingdom, we anticipate the blessings of today and tomorrow as your beloved children. Thank you. Amen.

PURPOSE:

Buy a jar of honey and share it in a meal or snack with family or friends. Talk about Winnie-the-Pooh and God.

Thursday, November 12, 2020:

Psalm 123 <https://tinyurl.com/y6juj5y8>

PONDER:

Psalm 123 is a song for when you're at the end of your rope. Martin Luther called this psalm "the deep sigh of a pained heart." When you are oppressed or persecuted, when you don't know what to do, when you've had enough, Psalm 123 encourages you to look to the Lord and cast yourself upon him. Put yourself in his hands and trust him to do what is best. Look to the Lord for mercy in your time of need. Sometimes ... a lot of the time really ... the saying "Let go, and let God" is the best option we might have in a situation. And that's okay. It's in the deep sigh that we make room in our lungs for the new breath needed to keep going.

PRAYER:

Dear God, I'm not throwing up my hands and walking away. I'm lifting my hands to you in humble submission, asking for help. For myself, my friends and my family. Your help is what I desire. Amen.

PURPOSE: rite a prayer to God and list the things you need help handling. Review that list for a few days, praying each time that the Lord gives you guidance and peace.

Friday, November 13, 2020:

Psalm 90:1-8 <https://tinyurl.com/y59v428t>

PONDER:

Imagine a view from a hilltop, where you look out at crop-filled fields, healthy waterways, lively forests and cozy homes nestled into the landscape. It's a beautiful view, but subject to change from generation to generation. Psalm 90 reflects on the shortness of human life. Sitting recently with a person who has lived more than 90 years, I listened as she recounted long ago days when certain businesses were located in buildings that have made way for parking lots or more modern structures. She told of riding urban trains and buses that connected smaller towns to bigger cities. People walked a lot more, and front porches were social gathering spots. Nothing lasts, she said sighing, except for the goodness of the Lord. This Psalm recognizes the same truth about our fleeting existence. Without recognizing the goodness of the Lord, what meaningful pleasure could we really have in this life?