



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, December 19, 2020

John 7:40-52

<https://tinyurl.com/y5gl9r9y>

PONDER

The people of Jesus' day had a hard time figuring out who and what he was. The "wise ones" and the "leaders" seemed to want to protect their own territory. They tried to label Jesus – prophet, Messiah, descendant of David. He was different. He didn't fit a mold and he was shaking up the power the authorities held. This wasn't the power Jesus came to cozy up to. Jesus was different – God sent him to those who could recognize Divine power and authority without labels and name-calling and doubt. Jesus came to regular people – Mary and Joseph – and he comes to us now, today. Those who seek him will find him – those who seek their own power will find its own reward.

PRAY

God of power and might, help us know your power of salvation as we walk the roads of life. Thank you. Amen

ACT

Pay attention to your words today. What are you seeking in this life?

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

December 14-19, 2020

Monday, December 14, 2020

Psalm 125

<https://tinyurl.com/pgyvokt>

PONDER

Those who trust in the Lord are as steady and immovable as mountains. God will not allow evil to remain among God's faithful. If we are surrounded by evil, it is possible we could lose sight of what it is to live in God's goodness. Think how easy it is to get caught up in gossip with a friend or group of friends. In verse 4, the psalmist asks the Lord to help those who do good. In verse 5, however, the psalmist doesn't ask the Lord to do away with those who are wicked – there just seems to be a knowing, a trust of what will happen to evildoers without the psalmist getting involved. As our faith deepens, so does our ability to resist the evil around us.

PRAY

God, thank you for showing me your ways so that I do not become lost to the evil forces of the world. Thank you. Amen

ACT

Pay attention to your thoughts and interactions today. Was there an opportunity to stray from God's goodness? How did you handle it?

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

2 Kings 2:9-22

<https://tinyurl.com/y2qpx7sx>

PONDER

This less familiar story of the parting of waters – in this passage, the Jordan River – features the cloak of Elijah being used instead of Moses' staff. Elisha is the only one to cross over. The Jordan River is Israel's source of fresh water. It may seem somewhat ironic that Elisha asks for a bowl of salt to purify the water of Jericho, a city near the Dead Sea. The fresh water was polluted in the city, and salt was healing. Elisha not only asks for salt, but salt in a new bowl. Elisha wanted a new bowl so that the vessel held no old experiences, and would create anew along with the salt among the grumbling people of Jericho. Are you ready to leave the past behind and carry salt – Jesus – to the source of your problems?

PRAY

God of healing and wholeness, make in me a new vessel to carry your salt into a world in need of healing. Thank you. Amen

ACT

Buy a new handmade bowl – or make your own – and set it in a place where you will see it. Ask Christ to restore you to wholeness.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Malachi 3:16-4:6

<https://tinyurl.com/y2sr2vjb>

PONDER

In my weekly Bible study group, we often discuss how the term “fear” is often mistranslated, with the meaning being closer to “awe.” We are God's treasured possession. As we walk in faith with our God, we acknowledge God's grace and mercy. Keep trusting. Keep serving. Keep praising. God will deal with the others. Remember, God is faithful. Let us stand in awe of the Lord.

PRAY

God of goodness and awe, we go about your holy work knowing you see us. Thank you. Amen

ACT

Re-read today's passage, substituting the word “fear” with “awe.”

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

<https://tinyurl.com/yxlxjmec>

PONDER

Ethan the Ezrahite, the author of this psalm, knew of God's covenant with David. He focuses on God's mercies and quotes God's many blessings placed upon David, including help, anointing, security, strength, protection and vindication. David was never overthrown. It's no surprise that in these verses we find similarities with Jesus, God's Son, chosen to emerge from the line of David: extracted from the people, elected by God from among the people and exalted above the people. Jesus our Savior comes to us, God's servants, in times of trouble for us to receive God's mercies through him.

PRAY

God, your covenants last from generation to generation, down to us in these troubled times. Thank you for Jesus and for our many blessings. Amen

ACT

Today, tell someone something God has done for you.

Friday, December 18, 2020

Hebrews 1: 5-14

<https://tinyurl.com/yyko67zc>

PONDER

God creates. God's time is infinite. Angels are among us, ministering and guarding, healing and interceding – serving the Son who is greater than the angels. If the angels are serving God and the Son, ought we not pay attention as they serve us? In the season of Advent, we think about the angel Gabriel. Angels are among us, unseen and serving. Invite an angel to help you with something you're struggling with today. Remember to thank the angel.

PRAY

God, thank you for angels and their service among us. Amen

ACT

Watch the movie “It's a Wonderful Life” or “Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square.”