



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, January 30, 2021 (by Lisa Trigg)
Matthew 8:28 to 9:1 <https://tinyurl.com/y58o6lqa>

PONDER: I've heard that hanging on to the demons we know is easier than finding new demons to tame. When Jesus cast the demons out of the men in today's Scripture passage, the people's response was to ask Jesus to leave the area. Were they afraid he would cast out their demons as well? Perhaps demons manifest themselves in people in different ways. For instance, out of nowhere, somebody can become very angry for seemingly no reason. A few years ago in a youth Sunday School class, I was failing miserably while trying to give insight to the stories of Jesus casting out demons. One of the young people summed it up beautifully, however, with the suggestion of "Just letting go of the bad stuff inside that holds us back." For today, that is a good place to start.

PRAYER: Cast out, O Christ, cast far away the demons that destroy: the haunting dreads that choke our souls, the hates that stifle joy. Renew in us a Spirit of Truth and Love. Amen

ACTION: Take a meal to a widow, homebound member, single mom, recent divorcee, or anyone in your church or community who needs an unexpected blessing.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS **January 25-30, 2021**

Monday, January 25, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)
Psalm 46 <https://tinyurl.com/oj2s8f6>

PONDER: This beautiful praise psalm reminds me that God is over all things, in all things and reigns forever and ever. From the lowest lows to the highest heights, God's presence not only surrounds us but is our refuge – our dwelling place. God's presence that dwells in the Temple in Jerusalem also dwells in us. God is our dwelling place and we are God's dwelling place on this earth. "That's enough" God says in verse 10. No more uproars, no more wars – God claims us. We can stop what we are doing because we are protected and are able to live in peace. The source of our refuge is more powerful than any nation or ruler.

PRAYER: God, my refuge and my strength, go with me into this day knowing your peace is my dwelling place. Amen

ACTION: Find a calm moment in your day to rest in God's peace.

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)
Acts 5:33-42 <https://tinyurl.com/y4cw4hq5>

PONDER: Who are the teachers who are honored among us today – the ones to whom the people in power are willing to listen? Gamaliel was able to explain both sides of the coin to the Sanhedrin as they considered putting the apostles to death. "Slow down – think about the consequences of your actions," he seems to be saying. It's almost as if they were considering the dilemma of whether Jesus was fully human or fully divine, or both. "How can you judge when you don't know," he asks. When our harsh judgement of others causes them harm, we are fighting against God's will for us to love one another. Are we willing to be the Gamaliel's of the world, advocating for those who do God's work? Or do we sit in judgement, wanting to silence those we don't understand?

PRAYER: God, help me know the difference between what is of you and what of this earth. Help me always share the good news of Jesus – and if I should suffer for that message, so be it. My trust is in you, my salvation and my peace. Amen

ACTION: Tell someone about Jesus today.

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 (by Anita Edenfield)

Proverbs 8:1-21 <https://tinyurl.com/yy259qaf>

PONDER: Wisdom. Can't you just see an elderly man with a long white beard looking over a set of wire-rimmed spectacles comes to mind; sitting behind a big wooden desk with a wall of books behind ready to impart his vast amount of wisdom to a room of hushed listeners? ..wearing masks and socially distanced, of course! However, reading Proverbs 8 gives me pause to consider both words: wisdom and knowledge. Some may think wisdom and knowledge are synonymous. However, in Proverbs we are told that wisdom is 'right, true, and just' (vs 6-8); that we should choose her over 'silver, gold and rubies' (vs 10-11); and that she possesses knowledge (vs 12). So they are not the same! In Proverbs 8 I think God is telling us to seek His help to take knowledge- not only our own, but also that of our elders- and give it purposeful use in our own lives so it can blossom into wisdom through which we can then help transform the world.

PRAYER: Father, You have given us the capacity to learn and our hearts are beyond grateful. We ask your guidance and blessings on each of us as we seek to use what we know in our hearts to be right, true and just and live them into wisdom by virtue our actions and not leave them as simple knowledge by our inactions. In your love we pray we may use wisdom to guide us in everything we say and everything we do through all the days of our lives. Amen

ACTION: We know that people should not be hungry, alone, mistreated, or discriminated against. You have the knowledge that these injustices exist. Let's make some wise decisions: provide food or work a soup kitchen to ease hunger; make calls or send cards to those living alone or in group facilities to ease loneliness; mentor adults and children through Transformers or volunteer with organizations that assist persons with disabilities to spread love, and use your voice loudly when you see someone being mistreated or treated with disrespect to show respect and compassion. We can all do these to make our world a better place. Will you?

Thursday, January 28, 2021 (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalm 111 <https://tinyurl.com/y5mt3k3z>

PONDER: This Psalm is full of praise. It is written so that one by one It describes God's deeds and signs of God's goodness, His character and values. It describes His mercy and passion for those who honor Him. It describes how God feels that His covenant is forever. Then it identifies His handiwork; honesty and justice. His rules are trustworthy. They are established always and forever; they are fulfilled with truth and right doing. Finally, it also says that, "Fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God's laws." Fear here does not mean we should be afraid of God. The Hebrew translation of fear is being in awe and having respect. Awe and respect also include commitment and obedience. To me, all of this means that God is always the one who is in control. The psalmist writings here help me to remember that.

PRAYER: God of us all. Help us to seek your truth in every corner of our lives. Thank you for giving us the Psalms as one of the corners from which we can learn. Help us to identify others. Amen.

ACTION: Choose a psalm, read it more than once. Take some time to be quiet and listen to what it has to say to you.

Friday, January 29, 2021 (by Terry Noble)

Psalm 62 <https://tinyurl.com/y6hvj7x7>

PONDER: As you read this psalm, can you imagine the psalmist almost singing out affirmations that God is our source of rest, salvation, refuge, and faithful love far greater than any of us could imagine? Yet, the psalmist laments our continual actions doing wrong to one another and, and being vulnerable ourselves to putting our trust in humanity, rather than in God. When we feel vulnerable or tempted to act unkindly, do we remember that God's strength and presence are always with us? How would we be changed if we paused and remembered the great trust and assurance we hear in this psalm? God invites us to lean into the Love!

PRAYER: Rock of my salvation, help me stand firm in the events of this day in ways that honor your mighty Love for me. Amen

ACTION: Find a rock and put it in a place you will see it throughout the day. Think of ways you can return to your rock in the uncertainties of life.