



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, February 6, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)
Matthew 12:9-14 <https://tinyurl.com/y3xh82mg>

PONDER: Challenges and doubts and questions swirled around the healings Jesus performed. Jesus challenged back. “Do good at any opportunity,” he seems to say to those who were afraid of him. When we do what we feel is right and challenge those in authority or an old law or a status quo, fear of change arises. As the Holy Spirit works through us, we are going to face challenges. Stand firm in good works, knowing Christ is with you.

PRAYER: God, help me be a healer, even when I challenge norms. Through you, all things are possible. Amen

ACTION: Pray for someone who is sick.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS **February 1 - 6, 2021**

Monday, February 1, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)
Psalm 35:1-10 <https://tinyurl.com/yxnh86dy>

PONDER: We’ve all had people who have fought against us – people who have disappointed us by talking behind our backs, betraying things said in confidence, spreading rumors, broke our hearts. I was heartbroken when read the unkind things someone I trusted wrote about me to my boss. I was surprised and devastated. In my grief, I put my trust in the God of my salvation. I spoke with my boss. I walked away from what I thought was a friendship. I gave the situation over to God who is my rescue. No further harm came to me from this person. My strength is in the Lord, who guided my actions in the days following this person who was fighting against me.

PRAYER: God, protect me from the dangers of those who fight against you. Thank you. Amen

ACTION: Pray for someone who has hurt you.

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)
1 Corinthians 7:32-40 <https://tinyurl.com/y22e4qpr>

PONDER: “I would like you to be free of concerns,” Paul writes at the beginning for this passage in his letter to the people of Corinth. Paul addressed all sorts of issues with these new believers as they navigated things of the world and things of God. At the end of the passage, people are encouraged to “have the Spirit of God.” We encounter all sorts of things that aren’t directly addressed in the scriptures (we live in a different time!), but the scriptures are our compass for a life pleasing to our God.

PRAYER: God, help me not be as concerned about the lives and actions of others, and more concerned about how you want me now, today, to live deeper into your Holy Spirit. Thank you. Amen

ACTION: Take a moment to examine how God’s Spirit is working in you.

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (by Anita Edenfield)

Jeremiah 29: 1-14 <https://tinyurl.com/y2gby9bz>

PONDER: The prophet Jeremiah brings the people of Judah, who are in exile in Babylon, a message from God telling them to build houses, plant gardens for food to eat, and to even marry so that they might increase in numbers while in exile. Imagine their surprise when Jeremiah also told them that God wanted them to seek the peace and prosperity of the city of Babylon; in fact, they were to even pray to their God for it! Jeremiah said that after 70 years in Babylon God would return to fulfill his promise to bring them back out of exile. Perhaps by living in his prescribed manner God was planning that not only would his people find enjoyment in their lives in exile, but maybe, just maybe, they would be a good example for the Babylonians and influence them to serve the Lord just as they were doing. When I think about the words in Jeremiah 29 in today's terms, I might say that God was telling his people to take time and, 'bloom where you are planted!' I can only speak for myself, but I think those are wonderful words for us to live by right now! Let's all bloom!

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for being both our guide and gardener in our lives. We ask your blessings on us and on this giant garden in which you have planted us with the hope that we will take advantage of the fertile soil you've provided for us to grow and flourish. May we continually bloom where you have planted us and let our blooming keep weeds from stunting the spread of your love in this world. In the name of Jesus, Amen

ACTION: Daisies, sunflowers, roses, lilies, orchids... flowers too numerous to name! God gave them all to us to enjoy their beauty and fragrance in our lives. While we may not each have a green thumb to bring flowers to life in our gardens, we can be flowers in the lives of others. Send notes, provide meals, actively work with charities or support causes that work to lift up those with need. Be a rose one day and an orchid another; just remember to bloom each and every day.

Thursday, February 4, 2021 (by Terry Noble)

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

PONDER: Remember! Give thanks! Praise! In Psalm 111, we are encouraged to do all these things to honor the greatness of God. Yet, how often do we include praise in our prayers, which are likely full of thanksgivings, petitions, and pleas? There is a difference between praising God and these other forms of prayer. Psalm 111 is filled with joyful acclamations of God's greatness. How do you think the psalmist felt writing this? How do you feel when you praise God? Turn to God in awe and wonder --be fully in God's presence!

PRAYER: God of wonder and awe, thank you for the beauty and blessings of this new day! Amen

ACTION: Offer words of praise to God throughout the day. How does that feel at the end of the day?

Friday, February 5, 2021 (by Teddy Shuck)

Proverbs 12:10-21 CEB <https://tinyurl.com/y2ku5fza>

PONDER: Have you ever had your parents say to you, "Beware what you say to others, once it leaves your lips, you cannot take it back." The book of Proverbs is full of the wisdom of Solomon which warns about speaking foolishly. They remind us to speak honestly, to guard our words so we don't harm others, and avoid gossip. It also warns to be careful about listening to what others say.

PRAYER: God, help me to listen to others openly and with my heart. Help me to discern what I am hearing and most of all, help me to be careful with my words and the feelings that can result with what I say.

ACTION: When you are sharing with people, listening is as much an important part of the conversation as speaking. Practice listening with your heart. Ask God to help you use your words wisely.