



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

In claiming his authority both to heal and to forgive sins, Jesus shows that he sees the hearts of people – those who are faithful and those who blaspheme. It's hard to know what's in the hearts of people, and sometimes we find out the hard way. We get harmed. Jesus knows the condition of our hearts – may we live so that our hearts are pure in his sight.

PRAYER: Slowly pray the Lord's Prayer, reflecting particularly on the petitions having to do with forgiveness.

ACTION: Think about someone who has offended you and forgive that person.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS **February 15th - 20th**

Monday, February 15 (by Marilyn Culler)

Psalm 110:1-4 <https://tinyurl.com/96e9wkbp>

PONDER: This royal psalm is generally understood as the king's victory prefiguring Jesus' resurrection and rule of the nations. Jesus, in his resurrection, defeated death. As we approach Lent and travel with Jesus to the cross, this passage reminds me that Jesus is the ruler of my heart. He defeats heartache, he defeats my prejudices if I allow him to abide in me and he will defeat all the enemies around me.

PRAYER: Holy Redeemer and faithful Friend, thank you for your protection. Go with me into this new day, aware of your power over any danger on my path. Amen

ACTION: Give to God anything and everything that annoys you today.

Tuesday, February 16 (by Marilyn Culler)

1 Timothy 3:14-16 <https://tinyurl.com/2jxhyfnv>

PONDER: Paul is writing to Timothy from prison. "The mystery of godliness is great," he writes. I was listening to a story on the radio the other day about things we know we can't know. Sometimes we know something is great, but we can't figure out why. That's the beauty of mystery. Other things can be explained by facts, and there are some facts I just don't want to know because it may take away from the awe and wonder. The colors of sunset can be explained, hot dog ingredients can be listed, GPS can guide me to a new location. Google knows everything. I want to embrace mystery as I seek to live in Holy Presence.

PRAYER: God of mystery and presence, stay with me. Even when I'm struggling with things I can't see, you are with me and I am yours. Thank you. Amen

ACTION: Watch the sunrise or sunset drift across the sky and consider the mystery.

Wednesday, February 17 (by Anita Edenfield)

Isaiah 58: 1-12 <https://tinyurl.com/i13wphsr>

PONDER: Today is Ash Wednesday. A much too familiar discussion during Lent is often what ‘things’ we have ‘given up’ for Lent. I must admit that I’ve never been very good at giving up things during Lent; at least not in actually following through with it! However, as I read Isaiah 58 I gained an entirely new perspective on God’s desires for our acts of sacrifice and self-denial.

Isaiah tells us that we should not be flaunting days of our acts of contrition with hopes of gaining rewards from God, but rather do multiple acts of good that show kindness and compassion on an on-going basis (verses 6-7). Isaiah says God will show favor to His people when we learn to live in the way that makes the world a better place for the hungry, the poor, and those who are oppressed. So much for those talks of giving up for Lent! I think I need to change myself for good!

PRAYER: God of Goodness, We live under your umbrella of generosity and goodness beyond measure of what we deserve. We know that your grace is over us without our having to ask. We pray that with your guiding light we will begin to live with a renewed purpose to better the world for others so they may feel your love and grace in their lives from this day forward.
Amen

ACTION: Turn actions around beginning now! Make your, “I will give up...” into, “I can do ____ for...” and begin to make the world a better place with one simple mindset change. If we all do it just think of the changes we can effect; and let’s not do it just for Lent, but do it...Forever!

Thursday, February 18 (by Teddy Shuck)

1 John 1:3-10 <https://tinyurl.com/28g8cty7>

PONDER: Looking at these verses is really exciting to me. The writer wants everyone to know who Jesus is, what He has done, and what will be. “What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.” It’s very comforting to read and say those words aloud.

The author of this Gospel understands who the Word is. He wants the reader to also understand. What a blessing for all of us.

PRAYER: God thank you for giving us the gift of your Son and people who are able to help us hear your words.

ACTION: Take time to read the Gospels. Each one has something special to say about Jesus in the time he walked with the world. It applies to now as well.

Friday, February 19 (by Terry Noble)

1 Timothy 1:12-20 <https://tinyurl.com/29qqleo8>

PONDER: The author of this passage from 1 Timothy expresses gratitude to Christ Jesus who recognizes the potential for faithfulness and service to God in a person of violence and unbelief. What was it that God saw? Perhaps the passion with which a person does wrong, is an indicator of their ability to turn that great negative energy into great good. In 1 Timothy some of the wrongs are done in ignorance. Where are the areas of ignorance which might be keeping us from the great potential God sees in each person? Do we have the courage to believe in ourselves as God believes in us?

PRAYER: God, keep me close to you today. Guide me in your goodness as I serve you in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen

ACTION: Do something kind for yourself today.

Saturday, February 20 (by Marilyn Culler)

Matthew 9:2-13 <https://tinyurl.com/ere2c8he>

PONDER: Jesus has the power over all evil: spiritual, psychological and physical. The term “Human One” comes from the Aramaic meaning “human being” or “every man.” Both evil and forgiveness are addressed by Jesus in this passage. As Jesus went around healing, he was constantly being challenged. Those who believed praised God, and in doing so acknowledged Jesus was of God.