

sometimes it's a struggle to hope and not waiver and live in such a way that our life and faithfulness encourages others to do the same.

**PRAYER:** God, forgive me when my hope waivers and my actions don't reflect the law written on my heart. Amen

**ACTION:** Encourage someone with words of hope today.

**Saturday, April 3, 2021** (by Lisa Trigg)

Matthew 27:57-66

<https://tinyurl.com/ysvms9dv>

**PONDER:** Jesus has been crucified and placed in a grave. But still, the religious leaders are anxious. They fear his body will be stolen by his followers as a way of making his prediction of resurrection come true. They ask Pilate to secure the tomb, so he sends soldiers to help. Preventing fraud and theft is the reason given by the leaders for requesting the guard. It seems a bit like overkill. Can it be so difficult to make sure a dead man stays dead? A miracle of God, however, releases Jesus from the tomb, and through that miracle, we also are released from oppressive forces that keep us from living our best lives. Jesus continues to shine God's light of love, hope, peace, joy and all good things for this world. When the darkest time seems to have killed everything we hold dear, Jesus remains willing and able to help us move forward through uncertainty and change. Tomorrow, on Easter, we will see that nothing — not armed guards, or naysayers, or our own self-doubt — can stop the miracle of new life through Jesus.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, You are the one who makes all things new. Save us from our fear of change and uncertainty. Open our eyes and remind us that with you, nothing is impossible. Amen.

**ACTION:** Take a broom and sweep away any dirt and debris that have gathered at the doors of your dwelling. Sweep a path for the Holy Spirit to approach you and your dwelling, and say prayers of invitation and welcome.



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

## **DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS**

March 29 - April 3, 2021

**Monday, March 29, 2021** (by Marilyn Culler)

John 12:1-11

<https://tinyurl.com/32dsbney>

**PONDER:** The story of Mary using expensive perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus is a story of sacrificial giving. Jesus shows up at the home of Lazarus, Martha serves the group and Mary sits at the feet of Jesus. Judas is about money and Mary is about Jesus. How easy it is for the world's responsibilities to take hold of our time and for money to take hold of our lives. In a recent interview, the author Thomas Keller talked about facing fear following his cancer diagnosis. Sitting on his balcony watching the light play on the water in front of him, he began to realize all the simple beauty he had missed in the busyness of ministering to others, writing books, counseling people through grief.

**PRAYER:** God, keep me focused on the simple beauty of loving you. Amen

**ACTION:** Go for a walk, taking notice of little things around you. Consider looking for certain colors or shapes or how the light creates textures around you.

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021** (by Marilyn Culler)

John 12:20-36

<https://tinyurl.com/p8hr9vnr>

**PONDER:** "The light is with you a little longer. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light." I think about light a lot in my work as a photographer. Magical times occur just before sunrise and just after sunset. Golden hour. Blue hour. These are moments — not hours. The light changes by the second. Suddenly the magic is there, and just as suddenly it's gone. Time is of the essence. Jesus was here only a short time and he was letting the people around him know that time is of the essence. Our time on this earth is short and in this time God wants us to "become children of the light." We do not have a second to waste.

**PRAYER:** Creator God, direct me every second of my days so that I can be all you want me to become as I seek to shine your light through my walk in this world. Amen.

**ACTION:** Take time to sit and watch the sunrise or sunset today, noting how quickly he light changes.

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021** (by Anita Edenfield)  
Hebrews 12:1-3 <https://tinyurl.com/mf26c3zb>

**PONDER:** I'm not a runner, but I do enjoy walking. Although some days when I'm feeling overwhelmed with stuff and things, my walk feels more like the end of a very long race. Hebrews 12:1-3 seems a timely reminder that we are not in this alone; we have "...a great cloud of witnesses" along side of us every step of the way. For us Christ endured all his struggles so that we should not lose heart when facing ours.

**ACTION:** Lent provides us a daily reminder of how we all face our own struggles. Take a minute and find a hymnal and look up the song "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." Let the words flow over you and be reminded that you are not alone.

**PRAYER:** Father God, we thank you for being with us every step we take on this earth. We feel your comforting arms around us when we face what may seem insurmountable. We ask that you give us the strength to pass this love on to others who may be doubting themselves because you are here for everyone. Amen

**Thursday, April 1, 2021** (by Teddy Shuck)  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35 <https://tinyurl.com/nrfmc8s>

**PONDER:** Each time I read scriptures, especially about Holy Week, I seem to find something new. In this chapter of John, we are just before the beginning of Passover. Jesus knows what is coming. He knows his time on earth is short and he will be returning to his father. He and his disciples are gathered together about to eat. Surprisingly he gets up, disrobes, ties a towel around himself, pours some water into a bowl and begins to wash their feet. He dries them with the towel around him. Given that sandals were the shoe of the day, foot washing was probably customary even before entering a home. Roads were not all paved.

Perhaps even bathing was done before a meal. So why was this time different? Jesus was doing the washing! Jesus is doing an act that was not expected from him. Servants probably did this in some households! He gets to Peter. Peter can hardly believe what he is seeing! Jesus explains that although he doesn't understand what he is doing right now, he will later. Peter then asks to have his hands and face washed. Jesus says, "Unless I was you, you won't have a place with me." He also responds, "Those who have bathed need only their feet washed because they are clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you." He knows about Judas. He rejoins the group and asks, "Do you know what I have done for you? If I wash your feet, you need to wash others. Servants aren't greater than their masters, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them." Jesus was again preparing them for the days to come. This was just one act before the many to come over the next few days. Jesus gave us everything. He was human and must have a variety of emotions going on, yet he loved us and continues to love us that he gave everything. Doing this, knowing what his father expected of him, and knowing how much he had grown to love mankind, how proud God must have been. This is not different from what I remember about this time. For some reason, it is really sitting in my heart because of the pandemic and all the people around us who need to feel that love too.

**PRAYER:** Thank you God for sharing Jesus with us. Thank you that he explains to us as he goes about how we should act and hopefully, knowing him, we can direct our lives on the path he wants us to take. Amen

**ACTION:** If you can, perform some humble act for another person, remembering Jesus' act of love.

**Friday, April 2, 2021** (by Terry Noble)  
Hebrews 10:16-25 <https://tinyurl.com/2ysm7tnj>

**PONDER:** When I read Hebrews 10:16, I am reminded of a sermon preached by a friend who is a rabbi. It was during the time when there was heated discussion about the placement of "Ten Commandments" plaques and statues on public property. My friend said, "I wish people would worry less about posting the Ten Commandments on walls and lawns, and instead post them on their hearts." In this passage that is exactly what the Hebrews are being asked to do – take God's law into their hearts, repent and be forgiven, and have hope that does not waiver. Today, as we remember Jesus' crucifixion, we should try and put ourselves in the place of Jesus' followers. As they watched him suffer and die, they must have been overwhelmed with hopelessness. We know that Easter came. The living Christ is with us, yet

