

All of their lives are saved and Nebuchadnezzar has a new respect for the God of the Hebrews. How often when things are desperate do we take the time to gather our friends and pray. What great trust they had in God's love and protection – so much that they were willing to wait, confident that God would have mercy.

PRAYER:

God of my life, reveal your mysteries to me so that I may live in your mercy and goodness, even when the fires of this world surround me. Help me to trust. Amen

ACTION:

Any time you find yourself waiting today, think of God waiting on you. While you wait, pray for someone.

Saturday, April 10, 2021 (by Lisa Trigg)

John 12:44-50 <https://tinyurl.com/nvrpt83r>

PONDER:

Don't say I didn't tell you — followed by an eye roll. My cousin told me the electric fence carried a jolt, but I had to find out for myself. How many times have we heard an honest warning, or the unvarnished truth, and found that we couldn't believe the obvious fact right in front of us? We have to taste the milk to see if it's spoiled. We have to touch the 9-volt battery to our tongue to see if it will shock us. We prefer to see a conspiracy, or look for a deeper meaning, when considering some historic event. In the gospels, we might be so used to Jesus speaking in parables or not giving simple answers, that when he explains and summarizes his teaching in this passage, we might think "Wait. What? This is rather straightforward, Jesus. Um, thanks?" Jesus has told us to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus is the light sent by God. And so I wonder, how many times has Jesus given me an eye roll when I peered into the darkness looking for a complicated answer, rather than following the light and accepting his truth.

PRAYER:

Dear God, Thank you for sending Jesus to save this world, including me, from living in darkness. Keep my eyes open and my face pointed toward you. Forgive my unbelief, Lord. Amen.

ACTION:

Accept the beauty of the world around you today, and shrug off any offense you might want to take at another person's attitudes or actions. Be a light and compliment the light that shines in others.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

April 5 - April 10, 2021

Monday, April 5, 2021

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

<https://tinyurl.com/fhb9dj6v>

PONDER:

Our human bodies and our spiritual bodies are alike but different. Of course, our human bodies have a spiritual aspect, and our spirits have bodies here on this earth. The glory of living a spiritual life is that we have a taste of God's goodness BEFORE we become dust again. This is how we grow. This is what raises the consciousness of the whole planet. Light overcomes. Glory reigns. When spiritual people come together in God's love and the world is transformed. If we fight among ourselves over which religion is THE ONE, which person is best, which person to reject or which side is the right one, we lose precious time. We KNOW right from wrong on some level of our being. If I sit around and wait for the heavenly life to come, I miss opportunities to manifest God's glory around me.

PRAYER:

God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, grow your glory in me so that all I do, say, exemplify and radiate brings transformation to a hurting world. Amen

PONDER:

Examine some seeds in your hand. Plant them and notice how different the sprouts are when they begin to appear.

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 (by Jeremiah Hagler)

Psalms 118:14-24

<https://tinyurl.com/snxczebk>

PONDER:

How Good and Steadfast is our God! This thanksgiving psalm gives one the visual in the background of a trip to the temple, a truly sacred place. When reading this passage, one can't help but to think of those sacred places in our own lives. Even during this time of isolation and distancing God is still steadfast and good. It is in this isolation that one finds a sacred place within. While things in life can often feel isolating and as if they are mounting, how great is it then to read the words of the Psalmist;

“I won’t die—no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done”! Whatever the obstacle in our lives, there is nothing our creator hasn’t already overcome to show us this steadfast love.

PRAYER:

Creator of All! Thank you for your steadfast love! Thank you for your love that is always there in the sacred place where you meet me at my most vulnerable. While pressures of the world may mount and I may feel defeated, you are there to remind us of your love and that you have defeated death for us! Help me to live in this love and to foster a sacred space for those that need to know of your love. AMEN!

ACTION:

Think of those in your life who may feel isolated during this season of life. Those who long for the church to be that sacred place. Think how you can show them some love and be a small piece of something sacred for them!

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 (by Anita Edenfield)

Mark 16: 1-8 <https://tinyurl.com/89vv73ws>

PONDER:

Alleluiah! Christ is Risen! Imagine, if you can, that you are one of the three women that Mark’s gospel tells us were the first to discover the empty tomb. What is your immediate reaction? Personally, I can imagine several emotions springing to my mind, but Mark says the women were afraid. They did not go and tell the disciples and Peter as they were told to do because of their fear! In Jesus’ time women were mostly considered among the lowest of the low. (Can’t you just hear it?... “Yeah, right! Just who do you think is going to believe us? ... we’re women!). It’s now 2021 and women have come a long way, and yet the message remains the same: Go! Tell the good news that He is Risen, indeed!!

PRAYER:

Father, we praise you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins. We ask you for courage to live our lives according to His example. Help us to pay forward all the love and compassion he showed us to those who feel disconnected and unloved. We pray we can honor you with our lives in service to others. Amen

ACTION: Call, send notes or cards to three people you think could use some uplifting news. Let them know you are thinking of them, praying for them, and want them to feel how much God loves all of us.

Thursday, April 8, 2021 (by Teddy Shuck)

Acts 2: 42-47 <https://tinyurl.com/hvf8a6zz>

PONDER:

After reading this section, I think about how the early Christians must have felt. They tried to listen to the apostles teachings, to their shared community, meals and prayers. How much this must have comforted them. To feel the warmth and love of the community. The CEB translation footnote for community indicates that the Greek word for community is Koinania. This is stressing the bond among the early followers of Jesus. They shared everything: food, shelter, possessions, land. They went together everywhere. Eating together was an important part of community life. The word not only indicates concern for themselves, but of the wider society. I can’t help thinking about now and friendships that resemble this life. We eat together and share many parts of our lives. We are a community of believers. The word community has bigger meaning for us to consider.

PRAYER:

We thank you that communal life has many advantages. We ask for help to reach out to the challenges it presents. Give us the grace to reach out not just in word but in deeds. Help us to have the wisdom to share in the world our community love and care. Amen

ACTION:

Grant us the wisdom to share what we have those in need. Help us to reach out beyond our community.

Friday, April 9, 2021 (by Terry Noble)

Daniel 2:1-23 <https://tinyurl.com/utfbxt6u>

PONDER:

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, apparently it was a very disturbing dream. He summoned all his magicians, sorcerers, and seers demanding that they tell him the dream and its meaning. It happens that this group included four Hebrews, Daniel and his companions, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (better known to us by their Babylonian slave names: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego which modern scholars avoid out of respect for their true names). All of the soothsayers declared that what the king was asking was impossible and the king went into a rage and threatened to kill them all. Daniel stepped up and asked the king for time to consider an answer, trusting that God will save all of their lives. King Nebuchadnezzar agrees and Daniel asks his 3 companions to pray with him for God to give them the answer the king desires. They put their trust in God and that night the mystery is revealed to Daniel in a dream.