



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, December 25, 2021 (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 2:1-20

<https://tinyurl.com/4uwtjy9z>

PONDER: Pay attention to what Linus does with his security blanket, during his explanation of the Christmas story in this excerpt from “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Charlie Brown: Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about? Linus Van Pelt: Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about. [Linus moves toward the center of the stage] Lights, please. [a spotlight shines on Linus] “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not” [Linus drops his security blanket on purpose] “for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” [Linus picks up his blanket and walks back towards Charlie Brown] That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

PRAYER: Dear God, Thank you for sending your son Jesus as our security blanket. We cling to him in difficult times, and we carry him with us throughout our days. He is a source of comfort and a reminder of your care. Amen.

ACTION: Pray over a blanket, shawl, hat or mittens, and give them to a child with a note telling them that God loves them.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

December 20-25, 2021

Monday, December 20, 2021 (by Marilyn Culler)

Colossians 1:15-20

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8tfaas>

PONDER: God’s full expression of commitment to a relationship with humanity is Jesus. All of creation is attributed to Jesus, who in turn reconciled all people to himself. Jesus embodies all our unseen God created and continues to create, and harmony with God is restored through Christ Jesus. Everything is connected: God, Jesus, us. Our relationship with the living God comes into fullness when we commit our lives to following the example of Jesus. When we act out of compassion, love, forgiveness peace, justice and goodness, we are “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world” (UMC Service of Word and Table).

PRAYER: Lord, make me one with you in all my strivings. May all I do bring honor and glory to You and all creation. Amen.

ACTION: What connects you with God and Jesus? Go deeper today.

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 (by Jamie Douglas)

Psalms 113

<https://tinyurl.com/2p88mrw4>

PONDER: I have this, love/hate relationship with the Psalms. Praises and Prayers. Many are lovely and fully focused on offering praise for all that God is and, while I identify with some of the prayers attributed to King David, I can get “stuck” on how self-centered many of them are. “Help me, God.” “Save me from my enemies.” “Destroy my enemies”, and so on. In my moments of “enlightenment”, I realize that I can learn something in my irritation. Perhaps I should spend less time focusing on myself and asking God to help me and complaining to Him about all my sufferings and spend more time in praise and awe of the magnificence of the Almighty Creator. This psalm offers me that model of praise. Verses 2 and 3 particularly speak to me. “Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

PRAY: Lord of Light and Love and all that is and will ever be, I fall to my knees with head bowed in awe of your Glory. I know that you do not discourage me from asking for your help or sharing my sorrows and worries with you, but I want to spend more time contemplating your majesty. I want to sit and soak in the Light that You offer. I want to spend more time praising you and less time focusing on myself. All praise and glory to You, Lord. Amen.

ACT: Spend some time sitting and soaking in the Omnipotence of God. Find ways to express gratitude for our Creator. Sing, yell, whisper, write praises to the Great I AM.

Wednesday, December 22, 2021 (by Anita Edenfield)
Luke 1:46b-55 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8vkvkj>

PONDER: If we were to say that generations to come would call us blessed we would be called boastful. Mary made this very claim in Luke 1:48, but she wasn't called boastful. Why not...what's the difference? The difference is huge! Ours would be a boastful self-proclamation while Mary's statement was made in her humble acceptance of God's calling her for a very special task. I like to think we are all blessed when we hear, listen and obey God's will as Mary did. Rejection of God in our lives is boastful while acceptance is humility.

PRAYER: Lord, help us to be like Mary and listen for your voice. I pray that we will humbly accept your call and willingly go where you lead. Give us the strength to do whatever it is you would have us do with our lives. Amen

ACTION: "... Rise, and shine, and (clap!) give God the glory, glory, Children of the Lord!" Whatever you do today, give God the glory for being alive and able to act for He is the power behind the good you set out to do in the world!

Thursday, December 23, 2021 (by Teddy Shuck)
Luke 1: 46-55 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8kcs77>

PONDER: The words in these verses are so heart felt by Mary. "The Magnificat" can be considered a prayer or praise, although most of the time I hear it called a song. Mary has come to visit Elizabeth after she heard of her pregnancy. She and Elizabeth are delighted that God has chosen them for this blessing. For the first 50 verses Mary speaks of her love for God and what he has done for her. She is not part of the elite. I think God shows how much he loves all of us, not just the elite. The last four verses are

focused on what God has done for the people. The footnotes in the CEB Study Bible indicate that Mary might be referring to what Jesus will do by God's direction. How excited Mary must have been to think what Jesus would do for society. Mary must have been the proudest mother in the group.

PRAYER: Please God, grant me the insight into everyday happenings to see your love and care at work in the world. Amen.

ACT: Read this scripture again, slowly. See the joy of God working in the world.

Friday, December 24, 2021 (by Terry Noble)
Isaiah 9:2-7 <https://tinyurl.com/2p9crufa>

PONDER: The days of waiting have drawn to a close. In the northern hemisphere where the days grow shorter throughout Advent, Jesus' birth is celebrated at the time of year when the days are the shortest. Jesus comes amidst the songs of angels. There is no sound of trumpets, the city is not awakened, and only a few shepherds are said to have been there. Yet, on this night we commemorate Emmanuel – God with us – in the flesh, fully human and fully divine. It is a mystery we can not hope to understand, however, we can understand that God loved us enough to want to engage with us in the person of Jesus. This night may we all reach out for that immeasurable love, bring it into our hearts, and reflect it back into the world.

PRAYER: Holy Jesus, may your love always shine through me. Amen

ACTION: Read the poem (or look up the hymn) "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Christina Rossetti, where "love" is mentioned 12 times in only three stanzas

