

ACTION: Create something today – a poem, a photograph, a note – and give it away.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, January 8, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
Ephesians 4:17-5:1 <https://tinyurl.com/yckw89ew>

PONDER: My grandson likes to imitate a rowdy animated character called Booba, who gets into all kinds of silly mischief with his friends. My grandson usually climbs all over the furniture grunting and exclaiming like Booba, and his adventure usually culminates in a wild jump off a bed or a couch into a soft pile of pillows. Thankfully my grandson has never jumped through a window or swung from a ceiling fan in a full-on impersonation of this furry white creature. Today's Scripture caused me to take a long pause when I read the last sentence: "Imitate God like dearly loved children." The child who holds a doll and sings a gentle song to it is imitating a loving parent. The child who has wild rowdy fun must also be imitating God. Today, I am considering if I know how to imitate God as I interact with the world. It is a challenge I will accept.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for showing us how to be loving persons in our interactions with everyone, through the example of Jesus. Amen.

ACTION: Compliment the next parent you see with their child, even if they are merely holding the child, because that is what God does for us constantly.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
January 10-15, 2022

Monday, January 10, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Ephesians 5:10-17 <https://tinyurl.com/3ef7cx8z>

PONDER: We have times in our lives when the powers of darkness are real. The days when everything goes wrong are the days when we need to stand firm in our faith. Full mind, body and spirit protection come from God when we seek strength from the Light of the One who loves us. Protection for the Christian walk isn't about picking up an honest-to-goodness weapon – sword, bow, gun. Instead, we find protection in prayer, discernment, truth, love, doing justice, loving kindness, being peace. The closer we are to God, the farther we are from harm.

PRAYER: God who loves me, protect me this day. Surround me with Your armor of love so that my service in the world is pleasing in your sight. Thank you. Amen.

ACTION: How do you choose the day's protection when you wake up in the morning?
Say a prayer of protection for every step of your day as you put on your shoes.

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
Psalm 106:1-12 <https://tinyurl.com/2p9drk8u>

PONDER: I grew up thinking of God as this wrathful being watching over me and waiting for me to make mistakes and to punish me. I had it in my mind that I had to be perfect for God to love and accept me. It has taken me decades to understand that God is forgiving and extends love and mercy to me over and over and over again even in my failings. That does not mean that I am not to be held accountable for mistakes and poor decisions. These verses demonstrate that even with failure after failure to honor and trust God, the God of the Israelites, the God of the universe extends forgiveness and still desires a relationship with His people. We are to offer our praise to the Lord and thanks for the unending mercy and covenant love that is extended to us.

PRAY: O, Lord, we offer you our praise and thank you for your grace, your love for us in our weakness. Forgive us the sins of our poor memories; our lack of trust; our disregard for your Mighty Acts. Thank you for your patience with us and for not turning away from us when we sometimes turn away from you. Draw us closer. Hold us tight. Amen.

ACT: How is your relationship to the Divine? Chew on these verses and count the number of times in the Exodus and journey to the Promised Land the Israelites forgot who God is, and their relationship to Him. God held them accountable for their sins, but never removed His love or failed to provide for them. Now, take a look at your journey with God. Are you offering thanks for His unending mercy? Can you see that you can be imperfect and still loved?

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Psalm 106: 1-12 <https://tinyurl.com/2p9drk8u>

PONDER: It seems very fitting that a psalm that describes the relationship between God and man is a psalm of praise. A Cliff's Note version might read: life is a cycle of God favoring Israel, Israel neglecting their part in the covenant and doing wrong, God punishing Israel, Israel repenting, God forgiving, and life of favor of God resuming. But the good news is that this cycle contains praise! God is deserving of our praise simply because He is God who loves us unconditionally and will not desert us no matter what! With that in mind we should praise Him without ceasing!

PRAYER: Father of Forgiveness, we thank you for your endless patience with us your wayward servants. Your grace sustains us and we give you thanks and praise from the depth of our hearts. We pray that you keep our feet on a path that is straight and leads us into your light. Amen

ACTION: When you're obedient... praise God! When you're sorry for things done, or left undone... praise God! In all things... praise God!

Thursday, January 13, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Psalm 36 <https://tinyurl.com/5fpner87>

PONDER: I love the three parts and what they mean. The first part gives a great prosaic presentation of the ways which the wicked show they have stopped caring for being or doing good. The second part affirms the depth, height, and strength of our God. The third part asks God to give his faithful love/loyal love to those whose heart is right. He speaks of the light that shines from God through all things in and with us as we are always needing the warmth of God's faithful love. It makes me pray that my heart is right and I am one of those whose heart is right and eligible to receive his faithful love.

PRAYER: Lord thank you for your love that reaches from heaven to the depths of the ocean to the tops of the mountains. Help us to be worthy of that love. Amen.

ACT: Reach out to God for God's ultimate love today. Share it. Listen more. See more.

Friday, January 14, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Psalm 36:5-10 <https://tinyurl.com/3j8djew6>

PONDER: How do we express the vastness of God's love in mere human words? Here the psalmist gives us a picture of God's love extended to every corner of creation, and to all living things – both humans and animals. In Hebrew the word translated here as 'steadfast love' is chesed. This word for love is sometimes translated as "loving-kindness" or "loyal love" and means loving beyond all human understanding, without hesitation, and never faltering. Only God can love this completely, however, we who are made in God's image are given the grace to reflect at least a glimmer of chesed love into the world. As we find refuge, abundance, sweet drink, and light in God's presence we are invited to offer those blessings to all of God's creation.

PRAYER: God whose Love is beyond my understanding, may I reflect your Love in my words and actions today. Amen

ACTION: At all times and in all circumstances today, show love, be love, act in love.

