

Saturday, February 5, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 4:42-44

<https://tinyurl.com/3avbwyrw>

PONDER: Jesus went to a deserted place so that he might find time to be alone with God. Inspired by him, we can do the same, creating a moment of quiet so that we might meet with God. It may seem surprising that Jesus turned away the crowds who went looking for him. His point of view was different from what might be expected. He spoke from the still point of his life, from his core relationship with his Father. He had gone to the deserted place so that he might listen for the word of God. Then he could answer the needs around him, even resisting the appeal of the crowds. We also need moments of stillness and reflection to anchor oneself and to rediscover true identity and direction. Do not be afraid to turn away from the crowds and noise of everyday life.

PRAYER: Dear God, I turn to you seeking your guidance, so I may be refreshed to share your love with others, even amid the noise of the crowds. Amen.

ACTION: Designate a place and a time each day to become still and be alone with God.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
January 31 – February 5, 2022

Monday, January 31, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

<https://tinyurl.com/52fs3u6k>

PONDER: Wisdom. How do we interpret spiritual things for spiritual people while living in the world? The words of the beautiful hymn “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” come to mind for me. Paul begins to explore spiritual gifts with the people of Corinth as they begin to discover their way in the world as new followers of Christ. God’s wisdom comes to us through the Spirit. What lies beyond human understanding is available to us today through the mind of Christ. As we navigate the deceptions of the world, we cannot allow ourselves to be fooled. It’s ok if people don’t always understand our ways as followers of Christ. Holy wisdom opens us to fullness of joy for our days on Earth.

PRAY: God of my days, open my mind to your truths so that in all things I may do as you would have me do, and not what the world demands. Amen.

ACT: Turn your eyes on Jesus today. Seek wisdom from the mind of God in all you do.

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Psalms 56

<https://tinyurl.com/268wz6ef>

PONDER: This Psalm is a lament and a confession of trust in God. David finds himself surrounded by enemies – running from King Saul who wants to kill him because God has declared David the next king of Israel and surrounded by the Philistines who were still pretty upset about Goliath’s defeat by David. David was a brave young man and to me, braver still because he could admit that he was afraid. He confesses his fear in verse 3 and declares his trust in God. God knew the heart of David and David trusted in his connection with the one true God. Do we trust in God when we are afraid?

PRAY: Lord of all who knows our very hearts and loves us beyond anything we can grasp, thank you for providing us shelter from our storms. May we never need reminding that you are there in our joyful and safe moments, as well as in our most difficult trials. We can confess that we are afraid AND trust in you. You are consistent in character, full of love and ever-watchful and present. May we choose daily to walk with you. Amen

ACT: To whom do you turn when you are afraid? Do you really trust that God will offer peace and help you transcend your fear?

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 119:89-96 <https://tinyurl.com/353vw5sz>

PONDER: The psalmist has found salvation through God's laws and wishes to learn about everything he could do that would please and honor God. We do much the same thing in our lives today. When we find a connection with someone then we want to learn everything we can about that person - their likes and dislikes, as well as whatever we can do that would please them and honor them. Imagine if we used our daily meditation time to pray about what we can do to please and honor God. It might just be life-changing!

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, you are the guiding light in my life and I pray that my actions bring honor to you. I ask for better understanding of your ways so that I may please you in all ways every day.

ACTION: God's law to love your neighbor as yourself is easy to say, but harder to put into true action. Look for one thing each day you can do that will show selfless love, the love shown by God, to someone with whom you cross paths.

Thursday, February 3, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)

Acts 9:19b-26 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8h2s6d>

PONDER: Jesus takes a man who literally wants to take out of action the people who walked, talked, ate, and lived with Jesus and changes him into one of his most vocal supporters. No one knows what was said between Jesus and Saul the three days he was blind. We only know that Saul asked to be baptized as soon as he was awake. He began to preach about Jesus with great admiration. The people in Damascus were confused and surprised by the change. So surprised that they decided to take his life. Those who understood what had happened to him saved his life.

Why is it so difficult for people to believe that someone can change? Is it possible that most of us, at one point or another, may have needed to change and found it hard? I think that Saul's strength helped him to listen to Jesus. He was given the guidance of the Holy Spirit at his baptism.

PRAYER: Acceptance of change in ourselves or in others is not easy. God please help us to realize if there are parts of our lives that might need to be changed. Amen.

ACT: Look for ways to be more welcoming to those in recovery or facing major life changes.

Friday, February 4, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

Acts 9:26-31 <https://tinyurl.com/2p975et2>

PONDER: Saul persisted in his witness, even though some suspected his faith wasn't genuine. He challenged the status quo and was put on a hit list. Others protected him and got him out of town. How can we discern if someone is sincere in their faith? Sometimes, actions speak louder than words. Be encouraged and welcome the Holy Spirit to guide you in your discernment. Discernment is a powerful gift of the Spirit. There is a fine line between discernment and judgement.

PRAYER: Lord, keep me faithful in my witness and safe in the places you send me. Amen.

ACTION: Have you ever encountered someone who wasn't sincere in their words and actions? Can you think of a loving way to inquire into their motives? How can you witness to them in a way that helps them see the truth in themselves?