

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for the light of Jesus in my life. Help me share that light with others. Amen.

ACTION: Become determined to follow the light of Jesus, and encourage others to seek that light. Perhaps give the gift of a “night light” to someone who needs a boost, and include a note with a prayer and this Scripture quote, “As long as you have the light, believe in the light so that you might become people whose lives are determined by the light.”



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
February 28 – March 5, 2022

Monday, February 28, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

Psalm 35:11-28

<https://tinyurl.com/2s3e9hxb>

PONDER: Even with all the calamity and lament in these verses, the psalmist remembers God is great. God delights in our welfare. We cry out, and God is present. We call to God to come closer, and God is already near. God is awake, hearing our prayers, our laments and our praise.

PRAYER: God, I praise you for your abiding presence near me always. Keep me from doubt. Strengthen me in dark times. In you I find my delight. Amen.

ACTION: Give the concerns of the day over to God. Offer praise and thanksgiving for God’s unseen care. Lament and cry if you have to, remembering God is with you always.

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Acts 10:23b-33

<https://tinyurl.com/yc38326c>

PONDER: Do you know where you are biased or have prejudices? Some might be easier than others to recognize. In this passage, Peter and Cornelius needed some guidance from God to overcome the rules they learned from their religious and cultural upbringing. God patiently worked through both men and they yielded themselves to God which allowed them to find a way to push through some significant biases that, in the past, would have prevented them from even gathering together in the same space. They were open to God’s guidance and willing to change and grow.

PRAY: Lord, please search our hearts and reveal to us the biases and prejudices we carry. May we be open to what you reveal and willing to allow you to work in us to make the changes necessary to fully love and effectively put to death the biases that keep us from doing the work you would have us do.

ACT: This is another call to heart work. Spend some extra time in prayer this week. Ask God to open your mind and reveal the walls of prejudice you carry. Then listen. Listen for His guidance. Put away your ego and yield to Him. This could take some time. Be patient with God. Be patient with yourself.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Isaiah 58: 1-12 <https://tinyurl.com/yckmabt4>

PONDER: The law required fasting as a way of showing humility and repentance. However, Isaiah knew that God's people were no longer fasting in repentance, but rather in an attempt to earn favor with God. Isaiah directed them to return to spiritual discipline and to fill their lives with actions such as feeding the hungry and clothing the poor so their light would shine and they would find joy in the Lord.

PRAYER: Lord God, our lives are full to overflowing with blessings and love. Give us the sight to see others and reach out and meet them where they are just as you do with us. Let us give of ourselves with sincerity and gratefulness and let your light shine through us and into their lives. Amen

ACTION: Today, on Ash Wednesday, let us come to God in honest humility and repentance. Throughout this season of Lent, and beyond, may we be guided and moved to actions of good that change others' lives for the better. Let's make the next 40 days not just about self-denial, but more about a giving of ourselves.

Thursday, March 3, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Acts 7: 30-34 <https://tinyurl.com/46dzh4sa>

PONDER: Stephen's response to standing in front of the Sanhedrin is to recant the events surrounding the Exodus from Egypt. He gives his story with great conviction. This wonderful section about Moses seeing the burning bush almost gives me "goose bumps." Moses hears straight from God what he wants him to do. There is no doubt that he is being sent to Egypt. Have you ever felt a call from God but you just can't quite believe it. It takes a lot of time and faith to answer. Moses doubted himself, so God said, "your brother Aaron." God didn't doubt Moses, but he was giving Moses help to bolster his morale. Think about the times God has asked you to do something and you were worried that you could carry it out. Does he give you the extra help you might need?

PRAYER: God help me to know that you are sending me where I am needed. Help me not be afraid but in awe of you. Amen.

ACTION: Pray this simple prayer: Open my heart to hear you, Lord.

Friday, March 4, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 <https://tinyurl.com/fhfpqhpc>

PONDER: Psalm 91 speaks of the protecting love God has for us and the many ways that God will care for us. Yet, passages such as this have been misconstrued throughout the ages. When evil happens some cite that as evidence the person does not love God fully or is unfaithful in living a godly life. When bad things happen, do we believe that God has looked away from us and we are without God because of our sins? Nothing could be further from the truth. God is with us always, in every place good and bad, and God's love never wavers. When we recognize the constancy of the presence of God, we know that ultimately nothing can break that union. The next time you are in a hard place, picture the angels surrounding you and our Lord by your side.

PRAYER: Loving God, thank you for never leaving me. Amen.

ACTION: Take time to step back and feel God's presence throughout the day. Remember, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Saturday, March 5, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
John 12:27-36 <https://tinyurl.com/yz7835m8>

PONDER: In today's Scripture reading, Jesus tells the crowd they will have his light with them for only a little while. This brings to mind a faith story I heard recently. A friend shared that during a sad time of struggle in her young adult life, she was praying for strength in a relationship that had become toxic. At that time, a bright light filled the room and she felt God's love and comfort, she said. It was just a brief moment, but that "little while" of light gave her hope, and she knew everything would work out. Being open to the light of Jesus in our lives keeps darkness from taking over, and helps us share that light with others when they seem to be stuck in dark times. How can you let your light shine this week?