

**Saturday, April 30, 2022** (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 14:12-14

<https://tinyurl.com/mwdkk54w>

**PONDER:** “Sharing the wealth” is how my aunt once described sharing her find of morel mushrooms. She had more than enough for her own dinner, and she wanted the rest of us to enjoy the earthy pleasure of freshly found morels. Indeed, buying mushrooms at a roadside stand could be costly. When another aunt reminded her she could earn a lot of cash by selling instead of sharing, my aunt said the only payment wanted was the pleasure of sharing a feast. She invited some neighbors, too. Several of us had already been out hunting the elusive, spongy rascals. Most of us returned with only empty bread sacks and muddy britches after traipsing around in the woods and slipping down leaf-covered slopes. We showed up as the “poor and lame” that day after our woodsy adventure, but we were invited to the feast. My aunt shared not out of hope for return in future years, when someone else would hit the mushroom jackpot. She shared because that is what Jesus would do. He would invite the poor and lame to the banquet. In prayer, she thanked God for providing the mushrooms and the feast. What do we give away without expecting repayment? Jesus shows us that food, time, skills, help with a project – simply giving -- are all more valuable when nothing is expected in return.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, I thank you for the opportunity to give away my faith in my words, actions and deeds. Point me toward those in need, open my eyes to see, and my heart and hands to give. Amen.

**ACTION:** Share kind words and a small gift with a different person every day this week.



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

## **DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS**

**April 25-30, 2022**

**Monday, April 25, 2022** (by Marilyn Culler)

Revelation 1:9-20

<https://tinyurl.com/yjbfpc5z>

**PONDER:** The visual imagery in the book of Revelation is vivid and mysterious. This passage is the beginning of the unfolding of Christ appearing to the apostle John and the message John is being asked to send to the seven churches. The visual of Christ standing in the midst of seven gold lampstands (the seven churches) is a reminder that our Light surrounds the Light of Christ. We are the ones to then take that Light into the world. Christ is alive and goes before us. Angels are among us. Why should we be afraid?

**PRAYER:** God of Light, guide me in Your Presence this day. Thank you. Amen.

**ACTION:** Be Light to someone today.

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022** (by Jamie Douglas)

Revelation 2:8-11

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9hzh7>

**PONDER:** In these verses, the One who is the first and the last, who was dead and has come to life (Jesus) addresses the “angel” or leader/messenger of the church in Smyrna. The city of Smyrna is modern-day Izmir, Turkey. At the time that Revelation was written, the Christian church in Smyrna was being heavily persecuted. They were pressed on one side by the ethnic Jews – Jesus calls these, “those who say they are Jews, but are not” – and on the other side by prevalence of Roman Emperor worshipers. The believers in Smyrna submitted to the authority of Rome, but refused to worship the Emperor as a god. These verses offer hope and encouragement to the Christians in Smyrna to stand strong in the midst of persecution.

**PRAY:** We offer thanks for the support and encouragement of the One who IS the First and the Last. Remind us that you are with us when we are persecuted and ridiculed for following you. Reveal to us the ways in which we can continue to honor and follow you in a world where threats come from all sides – even within so-called Christian institutions. Let us always look to you and hold fast to your Truth, the TRUTH. Amen.

**ACT:** Spend some time reading and pondering these verses and the other verses in Revelation where Jesus is addressing the 7 churches. Look for ways to apply His observations, criticisms, and encouragement to your own faith journey.

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022** (by Anita Edenfield)  
Psalm 122 <https://tinyurl.com/p4euevuv>

**PONDER:** This is a liturgical psalm found within a group of psalms (#'s 120-124) referred to as Psalms of Ascent. These were sung by people as they were making their way to the temple. Journeys to Jerusalem were often arduous and singing helped the travelers along their way to focus on the joy they would feel when they arrived. The Israelites took great pleasure in going to their Royal City for worship. We would all do well to remember to enter His gates with thanksgiving and into his court with praise!

**PRAYER:** Lord, we joyfully praise you for all that we have and all that we are. We come to worship with songs of praise in grateful hearts. Let the joy in our hearts be reflected on our faces as we enter all our times of worship. Amen

**ACTION:** God wants us to call on him for help, but he also loves to hear our praises. Come into worship with praises for God is good and will care for all your needs.

**Thursday, April 28, 2022** (by Teddy Shuck)  
Psalm 30 <https://tinyurl.com/5n83td49>

**PONDER:** The Psalmist is very defining in his or her love for God. This is most definitely a psalm of praise and thanksgiving, an address to the community celebrating God's deliverance. It is exciting to read how much God is adored. The prescript lists this psalm as sung at the dedication of the temple. But at some point the psalmist loses sight of God and he fears losing the protection and love of God. It is hard to know why, but he feels God hid

from him. Earlier in the psalm he talks of feeling comfortable and feeling that he could never stumble. Now he fears God no longer wants to help him. Then he begins to feel God's help again after he resumes his praise and how God could save him. In reflecting, I wonder if God ever left him. He left God because he felt strong and self-sufficient. It makes me wonder how often I have ignored the one being that is always there for me, always.

**PRAYER:** O Lord, my God, as you have saved me from past danger, remind me in the future of your healing and saving presence.

**ACT:** Look up and be thankful for what you have and can use to help others.

**Friday, April 29, 2022** (by Terry Noble)  
Psalm 150 <https://tinyurl.com/4np37amf>

**PONDER:** Some have said that the Book of Psalms contains every possible human emotion. Biblical scholar John J. Collins says that in summary, the psalms are all about relationship – a relationship rooted in a God whose basic nature is love. Love is the defining value in the psalms, even though what we often hear is the call for anger or vengeance. Perhaps this is a 'safety valve' a way for the psalmist to vent and then leave the action of justice to God. Psalm 150, the final psalm, wraps up all the love, struggle, thanksgivings, and guidance of the psalms into one glorious song of praise. This is not just a song, but a grand offering complete with an ensemble of musical instruments. Read this psalm and try to imagine the music that the psalmist envisioned. Could the writer of this psalm have experienced this glorious psalm in person? What accompanies your song of praise to our Lord?

**PRAYER:** God, I don't always hear you when you speak. Open my ears and my heart. Speak your truth to me. Amen

**ACTION:** Listen for God speaking throughout your day.