

PRAYER: Holy One, all authority and power has been given to you. Earthly rulers have, at best, a shadowy reflection of your power. I pray your children stay loyal to You, not the idols we tend to value here on earth in our short lifetimes. Amen.

ACTION: Write a letter or send an email to a legislator asking them to think about how Jesus takes care of people. Ask them to not listen to lobbyists with deep pockets who think only of their own profits.



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
May 9-14, 2022

Monday, May 9, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Ezekiel 37:15-28 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m92ef>

PONDER: The prophet Ezekiel recorded the Lord's word that came to him. Being united will bring peace and prosperity and all people will know God is forever among them. What hope this must have been for the exiled people to hear these words of mercy! As I think about two sticks representing the two divided kingdoms becoming one, I think of people coming together to hold hands and put away differences. God invites us to hold hands, stop fighting and love each other. Who among us can hear God saying, "Love one another"?

PRAYER: God of unity and love, help me hear your voice and unite instead of divide as I walk in Your world. Amen.

ACTION: Make peace with something or someone in your life today. Maybe it's anger or food or money or someone who has wronged you. Embody love for yourself and those around you.

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
Psalm 100 <https://tinyurl.com/ytyexhpd>

PONDER: I feel lighter and exaggeratedly at ease when I read this Psalm. If only I would sing and worship, and shout to the Lord daily and acknowledge that I am His and He is mine. Verse 5 of The Good News Bible says, "The Lord is good; his love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever." May it be so and may I always come before him with hope and song.

PRAY: Lord of Joy, Lord of Eternal Love, let us come before you with song and declarations of acknowledgement and gratitude for who you are and who we are in you. Amen

ACT: Spring seems to me the perfect time to embrace the freshness of God's creation. Take some time to sit, dance, walk, sing to the Lord as you take in the sights, scents, and sounds of Spring.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
John 10:31-42 <https://tinyurl.com/jhuj2pbe>

PONDER: After Jesus spoke in the temple the people were ready to stone him, not for the miracles, but for blasphemy because he had equaled himself to God when he called himself the Son of God. Jesus quickly pointed out that in the Law many judges and rulers - those to whom the word of God came - could be spoken of as 'gods.' His challenge to their accusation was that if there was no blasphemy with judges and rulers then there could be no blasphemy in using the same term of him whom God had set apart and sent to them. In the 70's we might have said Jesus "socked it to them!"

PRAYER: Lord God, I pray for strength to be more inclined to listen to the heart of what is said and less quick to jump to an unfair judgment. I pray to live in the land of believers who know and live in the truths of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

ACTION: Listen with your heart and your mind in addition to your ears. Your ears are the avenue through which you take in sounds, but your heart and your mind are the avenues to understanding what you hear!

Thursday, May 12, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)
Psalm 148 <https://tinyurl.com/2f3t5fze>

PONDER: I had not thought about this psalm being mid-point in the last of the psalms, but it is. Some think this may be why it is so strong in the praise category. Whether or not this is true, I really appreciate the inclusion of so much of the world in it. The psalmist includes human beings from all walks and the angels, heavenly bodies. The psalmist includes animals and the waters because God created them all. Then everything, everything on earth is included because God created it all. The psalm is so inclusive of life that has been given by God. I appreciate the way we are reminded that we should praise God! If we have not known this before now, it should be written in our hearts that not only us, but everything on the earth should realize we need to praise God always. I pray that I praise God every day in some fashion.

PRAYER: Lord, I thank you for your love and ask for your guidance every day. Amen.

ACTION: Take the time to notice how nature, through flowers, plants and trees, acknowledge creation by God. As you walk, notice the wonderful differences God has created in humans as well. We are all different, and we are all loved by God.

Friday, May 13, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
John 14:1-6 <https://tinyurl.com/3thdtjaz>

PONDER: We have come to know the apostle Thomas as "doubting Thomas" because he does not believe the other apostles when they say that they have seen the Lord risen from the dead. It's likely that Thomas had also spoken with the women who first witnessed the empty tomb and heard Mary Magdalene's account of mistaking Jesus for the gardener but questions linger in his heart. In this passage, taking place before Jesus' death, Thomas is again the one asking questions. We sometimes say disparaging things about Thomas for questioning. However, there is an important lesson to be learned from Thomas' willingness to question – honesty about our feelings! There may have been doubts among the other followers of Jesus, but those people were not willing to admit to their questions. Speaking honestly about our feelings can make us feel vulnerable but may actually be a gift to others, and to ourselves, as we learn to share more deeply along our spiritual journey.

PRAYER: Holy God, when I honestly seek the truth guide me to answers. When I make myself vulnerable, give me strength. When I give of myself, make my heart glad. Amen.

ACTION: Share your feelings with someone you meet today.

Saturday, May 14, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
Daniel 7:27 <https://tinyurl.com/2s3a8pe8>

PONDER: Ah, prophecy. It can be tricky, if not personally treacherous, to interpret visions such as those in the Book of Daniel. So when prophetic scripture such as that appearing in Daniel, or Ezekiel, or Revelation is presented, my gut feeling is to take a pass on whatever possible hidden message was intended at the time, and go straight for the heart – to how God is shaping my heart to be the best beloved child of God I can be. The kingship of Jesus Christ is the everlasting one, so I lean into his arms daily for strength and support. I look for no other king, no other directions than those of Jesus. He said to love God with all my heart, and to love my neighbor. Our actions show our intention to love as Jesus instructed. When we love like Jesus, the authority of Jesus wins.