



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

PRAYER: God of all people, forgive me when I look away from ‘them’ and only see ‘us.’ Open my eyes to your presence in each precious life. Amen.

ACTION: God loves all people. Where do you see separation and inequality in your community? Who are the ‘us’ and ‘them’ people around you? What can you do to build unity and equality in your community?

Saturday, July 23, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)
Luke 8:22-25 <https://tinyurl.com/5n73jzar>

PONDER: Bringing calm to a thunderous situation is a skill Jesus had that we should all try to master. Whether we are in an actual storm, or troubled by an emotional situation, asking Jesus to be with us and to calm the storm can bring peace to ourselves, and enable us to calm others. Methodist founder John Wesley was amazed by the calmness of a group of Moravian missionaries when they all found themselves on a ship in stormy seas. Wesley admits he was scared, but he was calmed by the devoted Moravians, who prayed and trusted in God to deliver them to safety. When we feel overwhelmed by a situation, it can be helpful to borrow some calm from others, and to share our own calm with those who need it.

PRAYER: Dear God, my prayer today is for calmness in the face of troubles, and reliance on your goodness and love to bring me through the situation. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Amen.

ACTION: Write a prayer of calmness that you can keep with you and share with someone when they need it.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS **July 18-23, 2022**

Monday, July 18, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
Colossians 1:27-2:7 <https://tinyurl.com/muka94de>

PONDER: Paul wrote that knowing the mystery of God means knowing Christ, “All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.” (v. 2:3) God’s mysteries are deep and we often have to search for what God is showing us. The life and teachings of Christ are the foundation for growing our understanding. Even in Jesus’ teachings, things were hidden: a seed in the ground, yeast in the dough, pearls tucked away. The deeper we grow in our faith the more we become like Christ. Things that were hidden become known to us. We have to look deeper and see deeper.

PRAYER: God, open my eyes to your mysteries hidden right before me. Amen.

ACTION: What mystery is God revealing to you today through the example of Christ? What possibilities for love do you see as you go through your day?

Tuesday, July 19, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)
Psalm 119:17-32 <https://tinyurl.com/yw995x8e>

PONDER: Psalm 119 is chock full of theological gems. As I read the verses for today, three jumped out to me in the following order: “Open my eyes to see the miracles in your teaching” (v18 NCV). “Keep me from going the wrong way” (v29 GNT). “I will eagerly obey your commands because you will give me more understanding” (v32 GNT). I was reminded that God is always there, and it is up to me to pay attention. God’s truths and commandments are consistent and solid. God welcomes our questions as we seek to know him better.

PRAY: God of Wisdom, Patience, and Unending Love, thank you. May we seek to grow closer to you. Open our eyes. Direct us. Enlighten us. Amen.

ACT: Consider spending as much as you can each day to devote to complete silence and listening for God. Look for the direction and revelations that God reveals to you as you earnestly and intentionally seek Him.

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

John 6:41-51 <https://tinyurl.com/yvejyv2>

PONDER: Jesus claimed to be the 'Bread of Life' but the grumbling crowd rejected his claim; they all knew his parents, Joseph and Mary, so he couldn't possibly be from a Heavenly Father! Their self-assurance was blinding them to the truth in much the same way as our failure to believe beyond what we can see blinds us in today's world. If we fail to move beyond our own mis-guided knowledge then we may well miss getting to know the full truths about not only the poor and/or unsaved souls, but the truth about ourselves as well. Ignorance is *not* bliss! Never dismiss someone because of what you *think* you know!

PRAYER: Father of truth and knowledge, open our hearts and minds to your truths! I pray for your forgiveness for my arrogance when I think I know all the answers. Help me to get to know and love others for who they truly are and not pass them by because of who I think I know they are. Amen

ACTION: When you participate in a gathering, meal, or reception with others, many of whom you don't know, make a conscious decision to seek out someone unfamiliar and get to know them. Then when you see them the next time greet them as an old and treasured friend; they may actually have become like an old friend!

Thursday, July 21, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Esther 2:19-3:6 <https://tinyurl.com/4xtzmm6s>

PONDER: This Scripture passage seems to show that even when we do good, we do not always get rewarded. This might cause us to ask what God is up to in our lives, or ask if He is even paying attention to what is going on, or taking care of us? It's difficult to be in a situation where you do everything right, but you don't receive any recognition or reward, or even get punished. It might seem like those who live for themselves and couldn't care less about God, seem to be getting all the blessings. It can be hard to not get bitter at those who mistreat you, or at those who seem to get better treatment. But we don't always know the life story of other people. Maybe they have had a tough life up until now, and it is finally a time of reward for them. Stay faithful to God, and be thankful that others can enjoy their blessings when they receive them.

PRAYER: Dear God, you are a God of blessings. Each day of breath is a blessing for me. Thank you for all you do in our lives. Amen.

ACTION: Commend someone for being blessed by God with their good fortune.

Friday, July 22, 2022 (by Terry Noble)

Mark 15:47-16:7 <https://tinyurl.com/2p9h3fev>

PONDER: Although the stories differ, all four gospels name Mary Magdalene (along with Mary, mother of James, and Salome) as the first to discover the empty tomb. It is the women who take the news of Jesus' resurrection back to Peter and the rest of the disciples. For this reason, Mary Magdalene is sometimes referred to as the apostle to the apostles. In the highly patriarchal world of the first century, it is astonishing that the event of Jesus' resurrection is recorded as being witnessed first by women. God uses these women in a place of prominence which has not been highlighted as significant throughout history. In the letter to the Galatians, Paul writes, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28) Even 2000 years later we struggle to recognize the unity and equality of all God's people. We are challenged by the gospel to see as God sees and to work to do away with the categories that create 'us' and 'them.'