



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

Saturday, July 9, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

John 3:16-21

<https://tinyurl.com/2x562jnr>

PONDER: Think of prayer as a time of opening yourself to the light of God, like sunning yourself in the warmth of the sun, the gentle and bright light which illuminates us completely. In prayer, the light of God enters into a person in a way which lightens the burdens of life, and which encourages us to share light with others. It can help in prayer to imagine the light surrounding us and to be reminded that this light surrounds us outside prayer also. It also helps to remember that Jesus is not waiting for you to improve your situation, to feel justified or worthy. He is happy when you know your need, and turn to God in trust to ask for the blessings for which you long.

PRAYER: Dear God, today I ask for (what you need). Fill me with your light, please, and shower me in blessings. Amen.

ACTION: Share a lighthouse — a drawing, a photo, a pin — with someone and let them know that the light of God is a beacon of hope for them.

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

July 4-9, 2022

Monday, July 4, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

Jeremiah 6:10-19

<https://tinyurl.com/f2fmmpas>

PONDER: I'm struck by the words in verse 14 when the Lord recalls people saying "All is well, all is well ... when in fact nothing is well." How often do we, God's people, refuse to be vulnerable and admit shortcomings in our lives? We constantly greet people with "How are you?" and don't wait for a real answer. Someone asks us how we're doing and we say, "Fine, I'm fine," when in reality we are hurting, in need, longing for help. Back up to the beginning of verse 14: "They treat the wound of my people as if it were nothing...." If we aren't truly listening to one another, if we aren't being vulnerable and honest with one another, we are treating God's beloved people as if they and ourselves are nothing.

PRAYER: Holy God, help me go where you ask me to go, listen with open ears and never ignore your word. Amen

ACTION: Open your ears and your heart today to listen and share in honesty and truth.

Tuesday, July 5, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Acts 19:28-41

<https://tinyurl.com/4werjh7j>

PONDER: Change can be difficult and sometimes feel threatening. In these verses, we are told of a silversmith named Demetrius whose business was making shrines of the goddess, Artemis. The arrival of Paul and his message that there is only one God and these shrines are an abomination to that God directly impacted the livelihood of Demetrius and other craftsmen. It makes sense to be afraid when your way of life and your livelihood come under attack and your world is turned upside down. Paul and his message were shaking the very foundation of Ephesus. Humans tend not to like strangers coming into their community and disrupting and threatening their belief systems and their way of life.

PRAY: One true God, guide as we walk this earth and interact with those who share different cultural and spiritual beliefs. Soften our hearts and give us wisdom to listen and to love others as you have loved us. Change can only happen when we are willing to listen, learn, and trust one another. In the name of your beloved son, Amen.

ACT: How do you share your message of faith with others? Be sensitive to where others are in their spiritual journey. Take time to form real relationships. Recognize that hearing a different message than what one was raised with can cause anxiety and fear.

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)
Luke 10:13-16 <https://tinyurl.com/nhbts2yt>

PONDER: Judgment is not a pleasant thing in most circumstances. I know I certainly don't like the vulnerability I feel when I'm being judged. I feel like it puts my inner self on display - not my happy place! So, why, then, do I find myself often way too quick to judge others? In Luke 10: 13-16 we are told that God judges us on our actions and how we react to the gifts He so freely gives to us. Perhaps I need a reset. I'd like to be a child of God who passes less judgment and gives of myself more generously.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I pray that you show me how to step back and stop making judgments of others. I know that you, and you alone, are who I stand before in judgment. I humbly thank you for your blessings and your guidance in how I may live in harmony with others throughout my days. Amen

ACTION: As you move about through your days this week, focus on telling each person you encounter something positive about them and your relationship to each other. Positive thoughts or feelings will put each of you in a better frame of mind than you were when you first saw each other.

Thursday, July 7, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)
James 2:14-26 <https://tinyurl.com/yck5mnt2>

PONDER: The Bible is full of stories of people of faith in action. We are God's people, and God wants us to live our faith. We each have our own gifts to share. How we live out our faith comes from listening to God through scripture, an open heart and allowing God to take the lead in our lives. In the Methodist tradition, the Wesley Quadrilateral – scripture, tradition, reason and experience – reminds us that experience is central to our faith.

These daily meditations involve scripture, prayer and action. God wants us to be on the move, saving souls and sharing the stories of Jesus.

PRAYER: God, keep me moving and acting so that my faith is a beacon of light in a dark and hurting world. Thank you. Amen

ACTION: Actions of our faith can be simple to spectacular. Pray for someone. Share a piece of clothing with someone or some charity today. Donate to a food program at a church, school or world food organization like the United Nations World Food Programme or World Central Kitchen.

Friday, July 8, 2022 (by Terry Noble)
Psalm 16 <https://tinyurl.com/3dr5yy66>

PONDER: One of the blessings of scripture is that each time we read it we are likely to notice something new or different. Reading Psalm 16 this time, it was verse six which spoke to me: "My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage." What are those boundaries? They could actually be a beautiful land, but maybe there's an image here that goes deeper. The psalmist is so full of love for God - setting God first, taking counsel in God's ways, and staying away from things that would be harmful. Perhaps the 'pleasant boundaries' are the loving commandments of God which, when placed first in our life, create boundaries to help us live and act and love as God intended. The final verse says it all: "You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore."

PRAYER: Loving God, keep me on Your path and in the fullness of Your joy. Amen.

ACTION: Memorize this final verse of Psalm 16. Carry it with you as a 'pleasant boundary' as you walk in God's love.