



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
August 15-20, 2022

Monday, August 15, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

1 John 4:1-6 <https://tinyurl.com/5xd7bkcs>

PONDER: This passage invites us – actually, requires us – to be vigilant and discerning. We must strive for the spiritual gift of discernment. In 1 Thessalonians 5:21 we read, “Check out everything, and keep only what’s good. Throw out anything tainted with evil.” (*MSG*) We’re constantly bombarded by so much information coming at us that it’s hard to slow down and know who is speaking truth and who is a false prophet. We are what we feed our minds. Vigilance begins with choices and awareness. When we tune in to God’s divine channel, God guides our hearts and minds. “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (*NIV*)

PRAYER: Holy One, keep my heart and mind focused on Your will. Amen

ACT: Pay attention to what you feed your mind today. Seek spiritual nourishment.

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Acts 7:44-50 <https://tinyurl.com/3kdhf4ts>

PONDER: Do you ever have the feeling that human rules and laws restrict the way we see and understand God? Stephen is addressing the Sanhedrin leaders in these verses and challenges the way they operate and keep God boxed in to suit their needs. Stephen says that God cannot be contained and does not dwell in a building built by human hands. Stephen pays respect to the Jewish leaders of the past, but states that Christ on the Cross has moved the faith in a new direction. Broadened and expanded it. Allowed for God to move through the power of the Holy Spirit through those who believe. We gather in churches or temples, but the buildings are not where God dwells.

PRAY: Lord of ALL Creation, we praise you and thank you for your guidance; for your love; for your patience. We might find peace in the buildings where we worship, but help us understand that you reside in every cell of our beings and every atom that makes up creation. May we be brave enough to invite your Holy Spirit to dwell in us, guide us, and expand our vision of you. May we find you in every step we take and every breath we breathe. All Glory to You, Amen

ACT: Do you find it difficult to change the way you think? If you find that you tend to focus on laws and rules to the point of rigidity, pray about that and ask God to allow space in you for the Holy Spirit to move. Allow the possibility that God has higher plans and different ways of thinking than we do.

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 32 <https://tinyurl.com/2pkyjyw9>

PONDER: Sin and forgiveness. I'm certain we all have experience with the former, and I pray we all have experience with the latter! In Psalm 32 the psalmist tells us that when we sin we need to confess and pray because God *will* forgive us! We should not fear confessing to God because He will hear us. He may likely say, "Yep...you screwed up," but then, ultimately, our sins will be forgiven through His love and grace. Comforting? It most certainly is for me!

PRAYER: Father of All, Thank you for your grace and love for us, your children. We know we are far from perfect, but help us to try our best and when we miss the mark let us come humbly before you to confess and receive your forgiveness. Amen

ACTION: Feast at His table, which has been prepared for us. Remember, humble pie is there for us, but we must choose to taste it if we wish to finish with a helping of God's forgiveness.

Thursday, August 18, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)

Hebrews 12: 3-17 <https://tinyurl.com/mp86474r>

PONDER: Paul talks to his audience about persisting in growing in their faith in God. I somehow think he's talking to us too. I believe that God likes to hear from us all the time. I also believe that he likes us to be disciplined in our lives. We need to be disciplined in our thinking. God likes us to help each other in peace, love, bad times, unexpected problem times, even in bitterness. The big thing I hear is that we need to show others about God's grace. People might not understand that when things don't go right and it appears God is disciplining us, we are really being loved. God is smiling on us by showing the path to take. Leading the way by example. Trying to lead us to do the right things. God gave us Jesus who died for us. His many parables, conversations, and teachings will live forever as the ideal to follow. His discipline should be ours.

PRAY: God, help me to listen, and to have patience and endurance. Amen.

ACTION: Do something that requires endurance. Think about how to discipline your thinking and actions.

Friday, August 19, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

Acts 17:1-9 <https://tinyurl.com/zyvstderz>

PONDER: The jealous people of the synagogue didn't catch the people they wanted to bring before the city officials, so they rounded up other believers. In today's society, when people don't like the evidence they find, the answer they get or the truth before them, they make something up. Truth is minimized and the innocent suffer. Truth does not stay hidden forever. As followers of Christ, our living must testify to truth. Ultimate power rests with God.

PRAY: God, help me know Your truth and have the courage to speak truth. Amen

ACT: Share words of truth as you go through your day.

Saturday, August 20, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Luke 6:1-5 <https://tinyurl.com/wvb5esfc>

PONDER: Harvest time is a special season for the senses – the smell of grain, feel of the wheat, sound of a combine, watching the sun set on a field of stubble, anticipating the taste of fresh-baked bread. Jesus defends the actions of his disciples when they broke the Sabbath rules about resting and harvested some grain to eat. Jesus took a broader view and understood God wants people to be nourished when they are hungry. Are we sometimes too ready to scrutinize the actions of others and to watch for infringements of rules while forgetting about the true message of Jesus? Do we tend to fall into the trap of the Pharisees by judging? Do we defend rules that oppress some people while benefitting others?

PRAYER: Dear God, I pray that I may be humble enough to do good for others, even though I often make mistakes or break the rules.

ACTION: Recite the three simple "rules" to Do Good, Do No Harm, and Stay in Love with God throughout the day.