



GOBIN CHURCH
A United Methodist Community for All

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS

August 22-27, 2022

Monday, August 22, 2022 (by Marilyn Culler)

Psalm 10 <https://tinyurl.com/bdfc28vb>

PONDER: Paired with Psalm 9, these two psalms make up an acrostic poem. Psalm 10 laments God's absence. God is delayed while the wicked pursue evil. "Why?" "How long, O Lord?" In the end, the Lord is king, and he will hear the peoples' cry, strengthen them and do justice. If this psalm has a familiar ring to you, you aren't wrong: ego, greed, deceit, oppression and more are happening all around us. Be encouraged – God is not far off.

PRAYER: God, Holy Presence, help me hear the cry of the oppressed and know that You have a plan for Your faithful people. Amen

ACTION: As you face the challenges of the day, know that God is with you. Give thanks to God as you receive the blessings of the day.

Tuesday, 23, 2022 (by Jamie Douglas)

Jeremiah 7:16-26 <https://tinyurl.com/2j7mmt5z>

PONDER: Ah, the prophets. They were sued by God to communicate to the Jewish people. Sometimes there were hopeful messages, but often, the prophets were delivering messages of warning. In these verses we find God angry, disappointed, heartbroken over the rebellious and unrepentant behaviors of His beloved creations. He seems absolutely fed up and tells Jeremiah not to even bother praying for them. They don't listen. They create and worship idols. They turn away from wise counsel. God tells Jeremiah that all His people need to do for things to be well is to listen, obey and stay connected. Sounds easy, huh?

PRAY: Wise God, why don't we listen? It shames me to see that we still struggle to this day to remain focused on and connected to you. May we be convicted of our disobedience, repent and return to you. Over and over and over again. Amen.

ACT: Where do you spend most of your time? From whom do you take advice? Do you sometimes feel that your priorities are not quite straight? Take time this week to do a little heart/spiritual inventory.

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 (by Anita Edenfield)

Luke 6:6-11 <https://tinyurl.com/ycknkjyb>

PONDER: Details, details, details! Sometimes we get so caught up in the details that we miss the point entirely! The Pharisees did: they had so many rules regarding the Sabbath that worship almost became secondary. Stop and consider how many couples become so caught up in the idea of love and marriage that they forget the commitment to God that it truly is! Just think ... how much stronger we will be if we keep God first and let the details fall into place behind Him. I'll try it. Will you?

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, just as you take care of all your creatures - down to the tiniest little sparrow that flies - I thank you for how you take care of us day in and day out. Help us to keep you first in our lives and not let the details overshadow our thoughts and praises for you. Amen

ACTION: When there is an event to be planned, or a task to be done, jump into the fun and become involved in the details that will help make it succeed! There is always a need for helpers so not one person gets overwhelmed with the details. I think God loves a cheerful helper!

Thursday, August 25, 2022 (by Teddy Shuck)

1 Peter 3:3-16 <https://tinyurl.com/93u4292p>

PONDER: I have always been thankful for Peter in many ways. He listened to the things Jesus taught and took them to heart. As he shared with the people, I loved the way he subtly spoke to the women and slaves, encouraging them to teach the faith with their husbands and masters. Women and slaves were equal to their husbands and masters in Jesus' eyes and in God's heart. I believe that Peter heard the words of Jesus and his belief that God accepted women as equals and we (women) are asked to speak and share God's love to our brothers, friends and family. When Peter speaks in this reading, he is telling us how much God watches how we treat each other. God hopes that we are wanting to do the right thing. God lifts us up to help our husbands, friends, and even our leaders. So, husbands love your spouses and consider them as partners in sharing God's word or try to put God's word and love in your daily activities. God smiles on us always. Feel God's love.

PRAY: God, help us to read this chapter with open eyes. Help us to look and understand how we can little by little put something into the world that makes it better. Amen.

ACTION: Keep informed of current events and issues. Participate in ways that exemplify being a responsible Christian citizen.

Friday, August 26, 2022 (by Terry Noble)

Matthew 25:1-13 <https://tinyurl.com/msx2wk2r>

PONDER: This story of the bridesmaids has always seemed harsh to me. The women who didn't take extra oil are said to be foolish. The women who did take extra oil will not share. Then when the women return after buying more oil, the bridegroom will not let them in. Where are the values of faithfulness (being prepared), generosity, and forgiveness? There is an interpretation that the oil in the lamps symbolizes the Holy Spirit. Those who have allowed themselves to be filled with the Spirit have the ability to endure. Those who have not opened themselves to God's Spirit, end up wandering off trying to make up for lost time. I have wondered why the women with the oil didn't walk with the women without. However, this may be because although we walk together in faith, in the end, each of us must form our own relationship with God. Others can love and support me but only I can choose to open my heart to God.

PRAYER: Open my heart, God. Fill me with your wisdom righteousness. Amen.

ACTION: If you see a woman being marginalized, step up to her side in support.

Saturday, August 27, 2022 (by Lisa Trigg)

Matthew 20:20-28 <https://tinyurl.com/bu4x3pp7>

PONDER: James and John were two of the three apostles who were closest to Jesus. Yet even they seemed to have misunderstood his message. The apostles were not perfect. They were ordinary people who struggled to accept Jesus' teaching. Yet they succeeded in carrying out with great faithfulness Jesus' command to take the gospel to the whole world. None of us is perfect either, and we often find Jesus' teachings difficult to understand, and hard to follow. Like James and his friends, however, we are called to take Jesus to others. We must be careful to avoid the temptation to dominate others that lurks in our hearts. So much energy is wasted on trying to gain comfort and power. Jesus' call is radical indeed. Serve rather than be served. We are here to serve others – not to bask in comfort and power.

PRAYER: Dear God, give me a generous heart. Help me to give away your love and all things that separate me from your kingdom. Amen.

ACTION: Volunteer to do a task that you would normally avoid or think is "beneath you" to do, and seek no recognition for doing it.