



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

**DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS**  
**September 5-10, 2022**

**Monday, September 5, 2022** (by Marilyn Culler)

1 Timothy 3:14-4:5 <https://tinyurl.com/4t59bykm>

**PONDER:** God's Spirit moves among us. God has created good all around us. And yet, spirits that deceive, lie and try to control us are around also. As we immerse ourselves in the living God and remain faithful, we will know what is true. Much effort has been made in recent decades to erode public trust in "the media." Sadly, good people who have dedicated their life's work to seeking and speaking truth have fallen prey to demons of deception, greed and hate. A nation or a society can be brought down by evil that tries to deny truth. Will we rise, or will we fall?

**PRAY:** God, as I navigate Your world around me, open my eyes, mind and heart to Your truth as I seek to serve You. Amen

**ACT:** Seek truth today. Reflect on who you serve, and how you know truth. Don't rely on the loudest voice in the room to be the one telling the truth.

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022** (by Jamie Douglas)

Psalm 2 <https://tinyurl.com/23j9em5w>

**PONDER:** This world, including our country, seems to be a "hot mess" right now. I often feel waves of sadness and can find myself pretty discouraged. This psalm – attributed to David – reminds us that God is in control and is sovereign over all of this earth. His ways are not always clear. His timing is often not our timing, but we would be wise to put our trust in Him and serve God and God alone.

**PRAY:** Sovereign One, thank you for your creation and for your concern for those whom you created. When we are overwhelmed and troubled about the state of our nation and our world, let us turn to You for guidance. Let us take comfort in you and trust in you in all ways. Amen

**ACT:** Spend some time this week praying over stories from the news. Pray for countries in crisis. Pray for the leaders of our country, and all countries. May they look to God for guidance, wisdom, direction.

**Wednesday, September 7, 2022** (by Anita Edenfield)

Psalm 101 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m5dcy>

**PONDER:** David wants to please his Lord and in Psalm 101 he describes how to live a life that will. David declares he will dwell with the faithful and shut out the evil-doers. I believe David's faithful would include those who keep their spiritual selves yet live in the world to transform it by making disciples of Jesus Christ...sounds like a good mission we should all be on!

**PRAYER:** Father of the World, thank you for the abundant blessings you so freely give us. As we grow in our understanding of the depth of your love let us choose to let our transformation shine in the world so there is less darkness in it. May our lives be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

**ACTION:** Where there is darkness, light a candle. Where there is sadness, share a smile and comforting touch. Where there is hunger, share your meal. Where there is loneliness, be a friend. If someone knocks, answer.

**Thursday, September 8, 2022** (by Teddy Shuck)

Psalm 51:1-10 <https://tinyurl.com/y3ftfszh>

**PONDER:** In this beloved of the "Penitential Psalms," the psalmist captures all of the dimensions of the sinner's true repentance, a thorough acknowledgment of one's guilt. The reasonableness of the punishment deserved, but at the same time a heartfelt hope in the mercy of God, a concrete vision of a new life of grace in communion with others, and the firm desire to embrace that life as an undeserved but welcome gift. It is better to be a saved sinner than an insecure defender of my own righteousness.

**PRAY:** Lord, I know that I am broken. I pray that I may rely on your mercy and accept the gift of the new life that you offer me. Help us to see the ways in which we struggle with ourselves and therefore struggle with you. Help us to open our eyes and hearts to you completely in this new life you give to us. Amen.

**ACTION:** What do you recognize as broken in your life? Don't look away. Ask God to purge it from all sight and existence.

**Friday, September 9, 2022** (by Terry Noble)

Psalm 51:1-10 <https://tinyurl.com/y3ftfszh>

**PONDER:** In Psalm 51 we hear the pleas of King David for forgiveness. Tradition has it that this psalm was written after the prophet Nathan confronted David about his actions with Bathsheba and Uriah. David is deeply ashamed and begs for forgiveness. Notice that David speaks of God's steadfast love. Although David has done something terrible in the sight of God, he does not doubt that God still loves him. Furthermore, David asks to be washed clean of his sins. David knows that while his actions were selfish and cruel, he is still God's beloved - as are all of us, even when we have done a great wrong. David prays to once again hear joy and gladness.

**PRAY:** With David, let us all pray: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Amen.

**ACT:** Pray with a sense of deep gratitude as you wash/clean dishes today, grateful for water, food, electricity and home.

**Saturday, September 10, 2022** (by Lisa Trigg)

John 10:11-21 <https://tinyurl.com/2vd6584n>

**PONDER:** Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep. He cares for them and lays down his life for them. He emphasizes that he, himself, lays down his life. No one takes his life from him. This theme runs through the Passion narrative in John's Gospel and is a sign of his divinity. Jesus' death was not just a consequence of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was not an unlucky outcome of his confrontation with the religious leaders of his day. Rather it was a result of Jesus freely choosing to be a light in the world, an exponent of the truth, an embodiment of God's unconditional love and mercy. The light of Jesus was unbearable to the leaders who had built up over centuries the 620 laws based on the 10 commandments. Society had degenerated into no God being required to be saved. I wonder, do we experience God's love as pure gift, or do we believe it must be earned by doing certain things a certain way? Sunday reminds us that we do not come to God alone. Our worship draws us into community and identifies us as sheep of the Good Shepherd. Being thought of as a 'sheep' rescues us from thinking too much of ourselves. Jesus calls us to humility and trust, cautioning us against those who work only for what they want and warning against whatever "wolves" might snatch or scatters us. The shepherd keeps the sheep in view. Ask yourself to be led by the Good Shepherd, trusting that he often leads us in ways we might not understand until we realize that we are, each of us, thoroughly loved by God.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, give me the humility I need so I can listen to the Good Shepherd's voice. Lead me, guide me, along all my ways, for where you lead, I cannot stray. Amen.

**ACTION:** Undertake a humble activity today. Do a kindness for someone. Show mercy and love wherever you go.