

DAILY DEVOTIONALS cont.

First Week in Lent: *Wednesday*

Prayer: Surprising God, so often we are surprised by bad news and taken hostage by the media cycle of the day; but from time to time, we are surprised by love. From time to time, we are surprised by joy. From time to time, we are surprised by hope. In a world full of surprisingly bad news, show me how to be someone who can surprise others with love, generosity, and kindness. Show me how to be someone who can fan the flame of good news. Amen.

When was the last time you were surprised by an act of love, generosity, or kindness?

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.

First Week in Lent: *Thursday*

Prayer: Awesome God, the whole universe reflects your goodness. The stars at night shine like jewels in the deep. The trees tower over me, taller than anything I could build. The waves crash onto the shore, over and over, like the rhythm of your heartbeat. When I am too certain of what I know, when I am closed off to wonder and surprise, bring me back to the places where I can be awestruck. Remind me that you are more magnificent than anything I can imagine. Amen.

What takes your breath away? Where are you most in awe?

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.

First Week in Lent: *Friday*

Prayer: God of my days, time and time again I have been faced with a fork in the road, an opportunity to try something new. I could not have anticipated every open sky or winding path that the road might bring, but I know that you were with me every step of the way. Thank you for the roads less traveled that brought joy to my days. Thank you for the unplanned paths that taught me how to grow. Thank you for the changed plans that brought me closer to you. Amen.

When has something unexpected changed your life for the better?

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.



so good, it catches
us by surprise

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Please take the opportunity to fill out the Prayer and Gratitude Card, along with a Connection Card. You'll be invited to place them in the offering tray later in the service.

Prelude

Opening

First Reading Matthew 13:31-32

Gospel Reading John 2:1-11

Communion Song

PRESENCE

Your attendance matters. Scan the QR code below to let us know you're here! It's an excellent way to stay connected to Gobin.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, or otherwise in need of prayer or visitation, please fill out a prayer card, or let the pastoral staff or church office know. Jai will work to keep us connected.

Here are members of our Gobin connection who need prayer & comfort at this time:

Margot MacCracken, Brandie Sitton, Andrea Insley, Ashlee Vitz, Sandy Miller, Katie Isaacs-Bailey, Jim & Windy Watt, Luke & Sherry DeJaynes, Larry Rider, Ann Hansen, Marcia Linville, Matt Fruits, John Rissler, Kids Hope mentors & students, Valyrian residents, residents of the Putnam Co. Jail, Kyaw, Vivi, Treasure, Yun Ling, Ajaypal Singh and all ICE detainees in the Clay Co Detention Center

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a prayer request card or send an email to prayers@gobinumc.org

LENTEN DATES TO REMEMBER

More info to come!

Wednesdays during Lent:

February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

7:45 AM: Weekly Prayer (pray where you are)

6:30 PM: Taize Service @ Gobin

Service of Lament and Remembrance:

March 15, 7:00 PM @ St. Andrew's

Holy Week:

Wednesday (*April 1*): Tenebrae Service @ St. Andrew's

Maundy Thursday (*April 2*): 7:00 PM at St. Andrew's

Good Friday (*April 3*): 6:00 PM at Gobin

Holy Saturday (*April 4*): 8:30 PM Starts at Gobin, ends at St. Andrew's

Easter Sunday (*April 5*): 10:00 AM at Gobin

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

First Week in Lent: *Sunday*

Prayer: Celebrating Christ, your story begins with a dance floor, a wedding banquet, a happy couple, a community gathered. Your story begins with abundant joy. As I go through my days, teach me to be a curator of joy. May I see and appreciate the sparks of joy in my own life, and may they draw me closer to you. Amen.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus' ministry starts with joy. It begins with a wedding. What in your life is bringing you joy?

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.

First Week in Lent: *Monday*

Prayer: Storytelling God, you are constantly painting pictures of what the world could be. You can take one small seed and see the ramble of beauty it might become. I want to see the world in that same way. Give me the creativity to imagine beauty where there is none. Give me the persistence to imagine justice when injustice rages. Help me imagine what could be. Amen.

Jesus tells stories about the Kingdom of God, and his stories almost always surprise us. What do you imagine the Kingdom of God to be like?

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.

First Week in Lent: *Tuesday*

Prayer: Creator God, you have told us that even small acts, small dreams, and small bits of love can make a difference. I need to hear this reminder because it is tempting to believe that the hurt in this world is out of my control. It is tempting to believe that I cannot make a difference, but you say otherwise. Remind me that I have planting to do. Remind me that even small acts can make great change. Amen.

The Kingdom of God is described as a mustard seed—something small, but surprisingly powerful. How does this metaphor make you feel?

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.