

# Trinity United Methodist Church

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Prayer Ministries of TUMC offers this monthly brochure to our congregation and a circle of interested others as a compact source of daily meditations. We hope the language and the images—the articulations both ancient and modern—will bless you, awaken you, stir your imagination, open you to Sacred Mystery, help you commit to the kind of wholeness that Jesus taught and modeled, and equip you for the daily living of our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

## September 2017

# HEAR, O ISRAEL

### Friday, September 1

The Shema: Hear, O Israel,  
the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.

Deuteronomy 6:4

### Saturday, September 2

To hearken unto something is to respond to it. When God says *Shema Yisrael*, hear O Israel, it is an invitation for us to listen, to respond, to appreciate, to understand, to act. Our faith is a response to the oneness of God. We ground our lives in a relationship with the transcendent power of the universe. In other words, the Shema is about honoring the relationship between God and God's people. It is about acting in a way consistent with that relationship.

Rabbi Evan Moffic, *What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus*

### Sunday, September 3

Our own power of hearing  
begins with humility  
[humus: fertile soil].  
Like the rich, silent, creative earth,  
we should offer ourselves  
to the Other.

Anthony Bloom/Georges Le Febvre, "Courage to Pray"

### Monday, September 4

My son, if you receive my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you,  
making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;  
yes, if you call out for insight  
and raise your voice for understanding,  
if you seek it like silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasures,  
then you will understand the fear of the Lord  
and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1-5

### Tuesday, September 5

And if you extract the precious from the  
worthless, you will become my spokesman.

Jeremiah 15:19

### Wednesday, September 6

I will give you hidden treasures,  
riches stored in secret places,  
so that you may know that I am the Lord,  
the God of Israel,  
who summons you by name.

Isaiah 45:3

### Thursday, September 7

Hearing one's name spoken  
helps to open a person  
to whatever words are to follow.  
If today I can pronounce people's names  
with grace and kindness,  
it may be just the loving sound they need.

James Krings

### Friday, September 8

There is too much that passes for  
religion in our day that is counterfeit.  
It is divisive and judgmental.  
Genuine religion heals  
because it tells people that they belong—  
not that they are condemned  
or lost  
or on the outside.  
I hope that is what you get out of this sermon.  
You belong—no matter what.

Bill Kerley, St. Pauls UMC Houston

### Saturday, September 9

When Jesus talks about faith,  
he means first of all to trust unreservedly  
that you are loved, so that you can abandon  
every false way of obtaining love.

Henry Nouwen

### Sunday, September 10 "Hear, O Israel"

Sound stands nearest to the purely spiritual  
among the phenomena of the world of the  
senses. Therefore, God has chosen it  
to be the medium of sensory revelation.

Rabbi Norman Lamm

### Monday, September 11

The teaching of Jesus hits us where we live.  
We cannot stand as humbugs before him  
for one second.  
He educates us down to the scruple.  
The Spirit of God unearths the spirit of self-  
vindication; he makes us sensitive to things  
we never thought of before.

Oswald Chambers

### Tuesday, September 12

All that is contrary to the love of God  
is discarded.  
With all the dampness of illusion dried out,  
we can become logs incandescent  
with the living flame of love.

J. David Muyskens, "Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God"

**Wednesday, September 13**

Open my ears that I may hear  
 voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
 and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
 everything false will disappear.  
 Silently now I wait for thee,  
 ready, my God, thy will to see.  
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Clara H. Scott

**Thursday, September 14**

The Lord God has opened my ear;  
 and I was not disobedient,  
 nor did I turn back.

Isaiah 50:5

**Friday, September 15**

Blessed are they who have kept the word  
 with a generous heart  
 and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Luke 8:13

**Saturday, September 16 Hear, O Israel!**

The Lord is our God, the Lord is One!  
 And you shall love the Lord your God  
 with all your heart and with all your soul and  
 with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

**Sunday, September 17**

To listen—and to listen for all that is truly being  
 said—requires more from the heart  
 than from the ears.

Rabbi Evan Moffic, *What Every Christian Needs to Know  
 About the Jewishness of Jesus*

**Monday, September 18**

And those who err in mind will know the truth,  
 and those who criticize will accept instruction.

Isaiah 29:24

**Tuesday, September 19**

God never gives us discernment in order that  
 we may criticize, but that we may intercede.

Oswald Chambers

**Wednesday, September 20**

The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life.

Proverbs 15:4

**Thursday, September 21**

Your approval and support, your disapproval or  
 silence are noted and followed. Your leadership  
 can galvanize the fainthearted, encourage the  
 meek, bless the strong. Your opinions can bind  
 or unbind, both on earth and in heaven.  
 Your blessing matters more than you know.

Martha Grace Reese

**Friday, September 22**

Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you,  
 and therefore he waits on high to have  
 compassion on you. For the Lord  
 is a God of justice; how blessed are those  
 who long for him.

Isaiah 30:18

**Saturday, September 23**

To own the authority of God is to expect  
 that God will challenge us, comfort us, lead us,  
 and empower us as we discern God's message  
 today.

Ted Campbell

**Sunday, September 24**

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a  
 treasure hidden in a field. One has to work hard  
 to find a hidden treasure, and in the same way,  
 we have to work hard to find and understand  
 God's truths. God wants to know whether we  
 really hunger and thirst for him. Will we work at  
 it as if our life depended upon it? In reality, it  
 does!

*Forerunner Commentary*, Matthew 13:44

**Monday, September 25**

The world is filled with God's presence.  
 The Shema is our call to recognize that  
 presence. It is no accident that the Shema is  
 found in the book of Deuteronomy ... Jesus  
 cites Deuteronomy more than any of the other  
 books of Moses. And it is the books like Isaiah,  
 rooted in the same worldview as that of  
 Deuteronomy, that speak most frequently of  
*Kavod* Adonai, the presence,  
 the indwelling of God in the world.

Rabbi Evan Moffic, *What Every Christian Needs to Know  
 About the Jewishness of Jesus*

**Tuesday, September 26**

Say to those with anxious heart, fear not ...  
 The eyes of the blind will be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.  
 Then the lame will leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy.

Isaiah 35:4a, 5-6a

**Wednesday, September 27**

The author who benefits you most  
 is not the one who tells you  
 something you did not know before,  
 but the one who gives expression to the truth  
 that has been dumbly struggling in you  
 for utterance.

Oswald Chambers

**Thursday, September 28 Hear, O Israel!**

The Lord is our God, the Lord is One! And you  
 shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
 and with all your soul and with all your might.  
 And these words which I am commanding you  
 today, shall be on your heart; and you shall  
 teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk  
 of them when you sit in your house and when  
 you walk by the way and when you lie down  
 and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

**Friday, September 29**

How precious also are thy thoughts to me, O  
 God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should  
 count them, they would outnumber the sand.  
 When I awake, I am still with thee.

Psalms 139:17-18

**Saturday, September 30**

The minute I heard my first love story,  
 I started looking for You, not knowing  
 how blind that was.  
 Lovers don't finally meet somewhere,  
 they're in each other all along.

Rumi