First United Methodist Church
Cortland, New York

Lazarus at the Gate



Sermon Summary

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley | November 22, 2026

Life can be overwhelming. Between the struggles we face personally and the brokenness we see in the world around us, it's easy to become exhausted, discouraged, and caught up in the demands of caring for everyone else. But when do we take time to care for ourselves?

In this message, Rev. Daniel Bradley reminds us that **self-care is not selfishness—it is necessary.** Drawing on the story of Lazarus at the gate and the words of the prophet Jeremiah, we are invited to recognize that even in our darkest moments, God sees our pain, meets us where we are, and offers grace, mercy, and rest.

Just as Jeremiah remembered that God's steadfast love never ceases and that God's mercies are new every morning, we are reminded that hope is always possible, even when life feels like a mess. God's grace is not found in endless busyness or in trying to carry the weight of the world. Sometimes, it is found in being still, putting down our burdens, enjoying the beauty of creation, spending time with a friend, or simply making room for God.

We spend so much time caring for others, but God also calls us to receive the same grace and compassion we offer to those around us. When we feel unseen, forgotten, or ready to give up, God sees us and invites us to lift our eyes, put our trust in Him, and find restoration for our bodies, minds, and souls.

> *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*
>
> LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23



This week, take a moment for yourself.

Put your phone in airplane mode. Be quiet. Look heavenward. Let God give you rest. We all need it.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lamentations 3:22–28 • Luke 16:19–31

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