

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 13, 2019

*Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.*

### BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Luke 3:15–17, 21–22 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=412063460>).

Other readings are: Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14–17.

The theme is: Remembering God's Promises

Advent is the season of anticipation. It is a time spent actively waiting for Jesus to come. But now the presents are unwrapped and the decorations are being stored until next year. Jesus was born; angels sang; even the wise men have ended their long journey to find Jesus. For us, anticipation has ended. Yet, Jesus' birth in Bethlehem did not end the anticipation of those who were living at the time of his birth. The people were still waiting for the one God had promised, the Messiah, as told in the Hebrew Scriptures. The anticipated Messiah would usher in God's reign of justice and love, and it couldn't come soon enough! Some wondered if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, but he assured the people that he was not. The Messiah, someone far greater than John, was coming. John was not worthy to help him out of his sandals so that he could step into the water to be baptized, let alone worthy enough to baptize him. Luke does not even mention John's part in baptizing Jesus, but rather skips to God's role in the baptism. God's Spirit descends like a dove and announces that Jesus is God's beloved Son. In that scene, the people catch a glimpse of what they have been anticipating, God's promise fulfilled. In our baptism we, too, see the fulfillment of that promise. We are joined with Christ, adopted as his brothers and sisters. We, too, are God's beloved, bearing witness to God's reign of justice and love!

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

*"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.*

**In what ways are you a recipient of God's promise?**

**In what ways are you a keeper of God's promise?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 6:

**Who are the marginalized in your community?**

**What gifts do they bring?**