

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 14-20, 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: John 2:1-11 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=413269637>).

Other readings are: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

The theme is: Witnessing God's New Way in the World.

John writes his gospel to bring people to belief in Jesus as the Christ, the one promised and sent by God, the one who is the very presence of God in our midst. John calls the miracles "signs," for their purpose is to point to Jesus' identity. This week we read John's account of the first miracle or "sign" of Jesus' public ministry and find that Jesus' identity is at the heart of the story. Jesus is with family and friends at a wedding in Cana. When the host runs out of wine, Jesus' mother brings it to Jesus' attention. If this is the first of Jesus' public miracles, what makes her turn to Jesus in the host's hour of need? What does she expect Jesus to do? What makes her ignore Jesus' statement that he isn't ready for this? Mary enlists the servants to follow Jesus' instructions, even before he has agreed to do anything! Mary has no question about Jesus' identity or his power. Like so many mothers who see things in their children that others have yet to notice, she encourages her son to own his identity. When he does, he not only turns water into wine, he begins a new way of life as a teacher and healer. Perhaps even Jesus needed a nudge to step into the new thing that God was doing in and through him. As a result, many others will see in him what Mary saw first.

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.

Who is it in your life who helps you see the new thing that God is doing and encourages you to step out in faith?

Who can you encourage to see new signs of God's activity in unexpected places?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 13:

What difference does it make to you to know that in your baptism you are marked as a beloved child of God?