

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 21-27, 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 4:14–21 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=413283222>).

Other readings are: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a.

The theme is: Shaped by God's Word.

Most reunions and homecomings offer moments that are comfortably familiar along with those that reveal new realities. Such is the case when Jesus returns to his hometown. He does what he is used to doing. He goes to the synagogue on the sabbath. Jesus is at home here. Luke tells us that Jesus is "filled with the power of the Spirit" (verse 14) and praised by everyone. As he has no doubt done many times before, Jesus reads the scripture from the scrolls that are handed to him. He reads Isaiah's familiar words about God's anointed bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. The proclaimed "year of the Lord's favor" (verse 19) may be a reference to the year of Jubilee in which all debts would be cancelled. After reading, Jesus sits down, according to custom, and everyone waits for him to start a discussion on the reading. Instead, Jesus announces, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (verse 21)! Suddenly the comfortable, familiar routine is shattered! The words are no longer about some future hoped-for day. They are about a new reality. Even today Jesus' announcement may seem premature. The poor still await good news, and the oppressed long for freedom. Yet, we must not wait for a future Day of the Lord. Jesus did fulfill this proclamation and invites us to join in this on-going work of making God's love and justice visible in the world.

### 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.*

**What is your hope for the future? Do you hear Isaiah's words in that hope?**

**What can you do "today" to help make that vision a reality?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 20:

**What signs do you see that God is doing something new in the world?**

**What signs do you see that God is doing something new in your life?**

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