

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

October 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 18:9–14 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=436425971>).

Other readings are: Joel 2:23–32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18.

The theme is: Be Satisfied.

In this week's reading, Jesus tell a story about prayer. Two people, one a Pharisee and one a tax collector, offer two very different prayers. Pharisees were Jews who were particularly concerned with keeping God's laws, as they interpreted those laws. Prayer was important to them; but unlike the Pharisee's prayer in Jesus' story, prayers were offered to praise God, not themselves. This Pharisee, however, sings his own praises while at the same time condemning someone else. He seems to have no need of God, since he can clearly present a case for justifying himself. On the other hand, the tax collector humbly recognizes how far he falls short of God's desires for his life. He is vulnerable and open to God's transforming presence. The tax collector was despised by Jesus' audience; yet, here he is justified by God. Is the life of faith about keeping the rules, or is it about living in relationship with a God who is present among us? When the tax collector stood in that relationship, he was overwhelmed by a sense of his need for God and yet his own unworthiness. None of us is worthy. God's faithful presence is dependent upon who God is rather than what we do.

### 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.*

**Even faithful acts like helping others can become sources of pride that make us feel "justified" (good people in God's eyes). Can you think of times when this has been true for you? How can we be humble in a world where people boast about their achievements?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of October 20:

**Who reminds you of the widow in the parable of the persistent widow and the judge? When has persistence resulted in justice?**

*Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, [www.prospectchurch.org](http://www.prospectchurch.org)*

*Rita Boyer, [rita@prospectchurch.org](mailto:rita@prospectchurch.org)*