

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

November 12-18, 2018

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: Mark 13:1-8 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=407482551>).

Other readings are: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:14-25.

The theme is: The Way of Faithfulness.

The temple was not only an impressively large, beautiful building admired by at least one of Jesus' disciples, but it was the center of Jewish faith in which was located all of the power and authority that Jesus challenged. So, when the temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, the people lost much more than a building! It was a time of turmoil and despair. We do not know exactly when Mark was written, or if these words of Jesus were understood to be a specific prediction about the temple or a general truth about structures and systems that are temporary; but when the disciples request a timetable, Jesus has none to offer. Instead he tries to prepare them for the dark days ahead. Where there is darkness and turmoil, deception finds an opening. The search for stability leads people to accept authority from the wrong source. Jesus warns his followers to not be led astray out of fear. Jesus likens the coming turmoil to childbirth. What is seen as the end of time is actually the beginning of God's new creation. There will be hard times, but God is working through the chaos and will bring us to the future God has planned for us and for all of creation.

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 anchor when the world seems to be falling down around you?

How can we be hope-bearers in today's world?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of November 11:

Some give out of their abundance and others out of sacrifice. Which one receives our attention? How do we respond to each?