

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

November 13-19, 2017

*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: Matthew 25:14–30 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=375947548>).

Other readings are: Judges 4:1–7; Psalm 123; I Thessalonians 5:1–11

The theme is: Investing What Is Offered

The people who gathered to hear Jesus teach thought that they were living in the last days, and Jesus' teachings about the coming Kingdom of God reflect that expectation. This reading is a parable Jesus told about the coming Kingdom of God and his own return. It tells of a wealthy landowner who goes away for an unspecified amount of time. Before he goes, he puts three servants in charge of the property and gives each servant a significant amount of money but does not leave them with specific instructions. The measurement of money described here is a talent; hence the story is often referred to as the Parable of the Talents. The use of this word has naturally led to interpretations about God-given skills or talents, but we must remember that the story is actually about money – and a good bit of it! A talent was worth about 15 years of wages, so even the servant who receives one talent has been treated generously and trusted with much. Both the servant who receives five talents and the servant who receives three talents invest the money and are able to return more to the master upon his return. For this they are rewarded. Out of fear, the servant with one talent hides it in the ground and is punished/cut off as a result. Matthew's readers were surprised that the end of time had not yet come! Some were getting complacent. Some wondered if the end would come at all! In this story, Jesus tells them what to do while they are waiting. Live as though time is short and an accounting required. Make the risky choices that welcome the reign of God in its fullness.

### 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.*

**How are you investing in God's reign of justice?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of November 12:

**Where do you see faith in action?**