

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

December 10-16, 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: Luke 3:7–18 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=409296534>).

Other readings are: Zephaniah 3:14–20, Isaiah 12:2–6, Philippians 4:4–7.

The theme is: Collide with a Promise Kept.

We are approaching the third Sunday of Advent, which is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday or "Rejoice Sunday." We will light the pink candle as a sign of joy. Given that setting, the reading may appear to be an odd choice! Most of us would probably bring out our angry voices rather than joyful ones to read this passage. John the Baptist, whose birth we celebrated last week, seems less than thrilled with the crowds who have come to see him. Perhaps we are hearing his frustration rather than his anger. The people before him know the words of the prophets. They have known all along what God requires of them; yet they have not listened. John offers them practical instructions that leave little room for misinterpretation. As in the rest of Luke's gospel, we find passionate concern for the poor. Anyone who has more than what is needed must share. Tax collectors need to be fair and honest. Soldiers are not to abuse their power. Each person, no matter his or her station in life, can lead a more God-centered life. John is telling them to start here and now exactly where they are. God calls each of us and meets each of us where we are, empowering us to change our lives and participate in God's work of justice and peace. That is where we find joy!

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.

John gave practical instructions, teaching that no matter who we are or what our circumstances, we can live God-centered lives here and now. What practical things you can do to live a God-centered life?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of December 9:

When has your disbelief turned to joy?

*Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org
Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org*