

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

November 26-December 2, 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: Jeremiah 33:14–16 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=408697273>).

Other readings are: Psalm 25:1–10; I Thessalonians 3:9–13; Luke 21:25–36.

The theme is: Sprouting Leaves.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season of waiting, longing, promise, and preparation. As we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled, we look for signs of new life in the midst of hopelessness. Jeremiah knew something about hopelessness. He was a prophet to the small kingdom of Judah, a land that had been passed from ruler to ruler in political games of power. Jeremiah often warned the people that there would be consequences if they were unfaithful to God. Babylon was threatening and would eventually take their land, sending the people into exile. Just as Jeremiah had warned, Jerusalem would be destroyed and the nation of Judah would be no more. But here Jeremiah offers words of consolation and hope. While under arrest in Judah, Jeremiah purchased a plot of land as a symbol of hope and a testimony to God's faithfulness. This passage speaks of the appearance of a "righteous Branch" (vs. 15), demonstrating that even when things seem hopeless, God is able to bring about new life. Righteousness will prevail. That day is not yet. At times, there is no sign of it being anywhere near; so we wait. But we do not wait idly or with despair. We wait purposefully. We wait actively. We wait with hope. We wait for justice by making the world a more just place. We wait for peace by making our relationships and our community places of peace. Righteousness – where all is right - will prevail because we will embody righteousness. We will make things right, giving thanks for what God has done even as we wait for God to finish what we cannot 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.

Reflect on the following: "Pray as if everything depends on God; work as if everything depends on you." How can you practice that saying this week?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of November 25:

Where do you see examples of truth speaking to power?

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