

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

November 27-December 3, 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: Isaiah 64:1–9 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?qI=376375795>).

Other readings are: Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:34–37

The theme is: Two-Sided Coin

We have been hearing Jesus' teachings about the realm of God and the final judgment. Those teachings have reminded us that there is urgent work to be done and that no matter how hard we try, we cannot make the world or ourselves perfectly reflect the will of God. Now we hear from Isaiah as he speaks to the returning exiles, overwhelmed with the depressing work of rebuilding their community and their lives. There is so much to do, and we cannot do it alone! And so we begin the Season of Advent with Isaiah's plea that God would "tear open the heavens and come down" (vs. 1). Show up, God! Help us! We may take comfort and delight in those words as the announcement of Advent because we know that God did "come down" in a manger in Bethlehem. Advent is remembering that, right? Well, that is one side of the Advent coin. There is another side, however, that is less familiar and perhaps less comforting. The other side of the Advent coin is the one that looks forward to the time when God will again come down. We do not know when or where or how that will happen, but that it will happen is a promise. While much of the world – Christians and non-Christians alike – will engage in nostalgic remembrance in Advent, we need to look at the other side of the coin to see our utter need for God's rescue and decide what it means to live with the promise that God will come down again.

### 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.*

**Most of us do not spend much time thinking about God's promise to return to earth. What difference does that promise make in your life? How will you anticipate that return this Advent?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of November 27:

**What gift have you been given that you can invest in the reign of God?**