

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

December 3-9, 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 1:68–79 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=409221963>).

Other readings are: Malachi 3:1–4; Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6.

The theme is: The Sound of a Promise Kept.

In order to appreciate the song of praise that is this week's focus reading we need to know the backstory. The song belongs to a joyful Zechariah and is the result of a faith journey filled with ups and downs. Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were old and childless when the angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that he and Elizabeth will have a son. In and of itself, that is miraculous news! But there is more! Their son will be a prophet and will prepare the people for the promised savior. Upon hearing the news, rather than burst into a song of praise, a disbelieving Zechariah asks for proof. As a result, Gabriel prevents Zechariah from speaking until after the child is born. So, this song of praise has been months in the making – years if you consider the agony of a couple who longed for a child and centuries if you consider the plight of generations of God's people who anticipated the one God would send to save them. Zechariah's initial response is a human one. It is difficult to hope when the circumstances are grim, but God does bring joy. When John, who would later become John the Baptist, was born, Zechariah released a song of praise that could not be silenced!

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.

Are you hopeful despite circumstances, or are you – like Zechariah – asking for proof? In times of disbelief, how can silence/listening be a good companion and help lead you to a place of hope?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of December 2:

How do you share in God's work of justice and peace even as you wait for God to finish that work?