

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 16-22, 2020

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 John 9:1–41 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=449744627>)

Other readings are: 1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8–14.

The theme is: I Am Because We Are.

Jesus' disciples reflect the worldview of their culture when they ask whose sin is responsible for a man's blindness. Jesus corrects that worldview by saying that the man's blindness is not the result of sin and goes a step farther when he says that the blind people in this case are the ones who accuse the blind man of sin. In a miracle filled with controversy, Jesus heals the man born blind. It was the sabbath, and Jesus' actions would have been seen as breaking sabbath laws. Tensions between Jews who confessed Jesus as the Messiah and those who did not were high, with Jesus' followers being ousted from the synagogues. In this divided community, the Pharisees try to trap the healed man and his parents into saying something that will be used against them. The healed man knows only what he has experienced, that Jesus healed him. He bears witness to that miracle and worships the one who is responsible. Then Jesus turns the tables on the Pharisees by saying that he came so that the ones who are blind would have sight and the ones who see would become blind. Those who credit themselves with seeing and knowing God's will so clearly are exposed as being blind.

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.

Like those in this story, we live in a time of deep divisions. Where are your blind spots? How are you opening yourself to seeing new things?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 15:

Jesus told the woman at the well everything she had ever done. What does it mean to you that Jesus knows all about you?

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