

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 23-29, 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 11:1–45 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=450426657>).

Other readings are: Ezekiel 37:1–14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6–11.

The theme is: Conversations that Unbind Us.

This week's reading is filled with conversations and raw emotions. It begins with Mary and Martha sending word to Jesus that the friend whom he loves, Lazarus, is ill. Rather than going immediately to his friend in need, Jesus waits two days. During that delay, Jesus has conversations with his disciples about what is ahead for him, for them, and for Lazarus. In the meantime Lazarus dies and people gather to grieve with his sisters. Tense conversations follow as Mary and Martha tell Jesus that if he had come sooner their brother would be alive. Jesus talks about life and death, telling Martha he is "the resurrection and the life" (verse 25). Jesus asks where Lazarus is buried and weeps as he makes his way to the tomb. Sometimes tears speak more than words. As mourners point more accusations at Jesus, he has a conversation with God. Then Jesus commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb and tells the bystanders to unbind him. Jesus has spoken to death with words of restoration and liberation.

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.

For whom is Jesus weeping today? For whom do you weep?

What words of restoration and liberation do you have to offer?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 22:

The blind man didn't enter into debates with those who questioned what had happened. He simply told his story. What story do you have to tell?

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