

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 16-22, 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: John 10:11–18 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=385548411>).

Other readings are: Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16–24

The theme is: Love in Truth and Action.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd, invoking an image from Psalm 23 and linking his own mission with God's work. Even though shepherds are not commonplace in our culture, the metaphor is still meaningful to us. Shepherds protect, guide, feed, and care for their sheep. Shepherds go after the sheep who has wandered away from the safety of the flock. Shepherds put their lives at risk when caring for their sheep. The sheep are not pets; they are the very livelihood of the shepherd. The shepherd's life is inextricably tied to the lives of his sheep. Thus, to speak of Christ as a shepherd who owns the sheep is to speak of unwavering commitment, identity, and passion. This passage also emphasizes the intimacy of the relationship that exists between the shepherd and his sheep. They know one another, even as God and Jesus know one another. But there are other sheep, outside the pen, who belong to Jesus and will be invited in. The Pharisees and other religious authorities who saw themselves as the gatekeepers no doubt failed to hear the good news of that invitation. The Good Shepherd is always bringing other sheep into the fold.

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.

What metaphor might you use instead of the shepherd metaphor to describe Christ's relationship with you? How does the metaphor ring true? Where does it fall short?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of April 16:

Jesus showed the disciples he was not a ghost by eating with them. How do you "commune" with Christ?