

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 1-7, 2019

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 12:1–8 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=418975603>).

This week's readings are: Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b–14.

The theme is: The Fragrance of Life.

Although this story is told in all four gospels, John is the only one who places the event at the home of Lazarus. The last time we heard of Jesus visiting in that same home, Lazarus was dead and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were upset that Jesus had arrived too late. The smell of death already filled the home. But Jesus raised Lazarus, who is now seated at the table with them, and it is Jesus who is facing death. In this moment, however, it is not the stench of death but the fragrance of expensive perfume that fills the room. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with costly perfume; and in this loving, prophetic act demonstrates the generous, abundant love that Jesus has shown to them. Because of him their brother is at the table. No gift is enough to show her gratitude! While she chooses welcome, celebration, life, and love, Judas chooses judgment, dishonesty, and greed. Not even this strong perfume can completely overpower the stench of death! Jesus knows that death will come soon enough for him, but it won't come tonight. This is the time to enjoy the fragrance of life!

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.

Mary's prophetic, sensual act crossed the boundaries that defined status and power dynamics, just as Jesus would defy those dynamics when he washed the disciples' feet. What boundaries are you willing to cross to show what truly matters?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 31:

How could grace transform a strained relationship in your life?