

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

May 6-12, 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: Acts 9:36–43 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=421401849>).

This week's readings are: Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9–17, John 10:22–30.

The theme is: Identity of Resistance.

In the very first sentence of this week's reading we are told that the woman at the center of the story straddles life in two very distinct cultures. We are told she even has two names, revealing her bicultural identity. Tabitha is her Aramaic name, connecting her to Abraham, Sarah, and Jesus. Dorcas is her Greek name, allowing her to navigate life in a territory controlled by the Roman empire, whose official language was Greek. Tabitha was a follower of Jesus, who was executed by the Roman empire. She believed in a God who confused peoples' speech when they built a tower and insisted on speaking one language. She believed she was made in the image of the God of reversals. She thrived as a tailor, demonstrating that she was also successful in the dominating culture. She resisted that culture, however, by empowering the very women who the dominating culture discarded. She made clothing for widows and gave herself to life-giving acts in the community. When she died, the women's hopes must have died with her. But Tabitha was a follower of Jesus, whose resurrection defied the power of empire. When Peter called upon the power of the empire-resisting resurrection, Tabitha became alive again. The resurrection continues to breathe hope into oppressed communities.

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.

**When have you had to choose between your identity as a follower of Jesus
and your identity as a follower of the dominant culture?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of May 5:

In what circumstance today might Jesus be asking, "Why do you persecute me?"