

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

May 6-13, 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: Acts 1:15–17, 21–26 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=387528047>).

Other readings are: Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9–13, John 17:6–19

The theme is: Love Leads the Way.

The number twelve is an important one in the Bible. There were twelve tribes of Israel and twelve disciples. After Judas betrayed Jesus and subsequently committed suicide, the remaining disciples felt the need to restore their fellowship back to that important number twelve. The new church that would be born out of Jesus' resurrection was not a radical departure from its historical and cultural roots. Those who formed this new church were still primarily Jews, and the book of Acts which will tell the story of the early Christian church, begins by making it clear that this new church of Jesus Christ honors and embraces its Jewish roots. These new Christians seek to proclaim a risen Christ and discover what it means to follow him within their cultural context. By restoring their number back to twelve, the disciples are sending a clear message that those who follow Jesus are not being called to separate from their Jewish background. After prayer and the casting of lots, a common practice within that culture, Matthias is chosen as one of the twelve. There are plenty of unanswered questions in this story. Besides being with Jesus and the disciples from the beginning and witnessing the resurrection, what other criteria did the disciples have for the newest member of that group? What happened to the one not chosen? Was there a discussion or controversy about the selection process? What if a woman had been chosen! Those of us who have served on committees can only wonder!

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.

How are you listening for God? What do you see as signs of God's guidance?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of May 6:

Friendships need to be nurtured, or else they can be lost. How are you nurturing your friendship with Jesus?