

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

June 12-18, 2017

*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: Matthew 9:35– 10:8, (9-23) (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=362562017>)

Other readings are Genesis 18:1–15; Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19; Romans 5:1–8.

The theme is: Compassion

Matthew, writing to a primarily Jewish audience, often links Jesus and his ministry to the Hebrew Bible, specifically to Moses. Moses, who had once cared for the sheep of his father-in-law, spoke of the people of God as needing a shepherd. When he was about to die, Moses commissioned Joshua to carry on his work. In this week's passage, it is Jesus who expresses concern for the people who have no shepherd and sends others out to do his work. As born out in other places in the New Testament, Jesus thought that the last days of earth were upon them. The time was short to bring God's good news to "the lost sheep of Israel" (10:6). Jesus had not yet expanded his ministry to include Gentiles. Nevertheless, this passage tells us that Jesus "had compassion" on the crowds (9:36). Now in the days of the Roman Empire compassion was considered to be a character flaw, a sign of weakness in a society that valued strength. Showing compassion was countercultural, risky business. Many would not welcome their efforts. While Jesus' instructions to not waste time with such people may seem anything but compassionate, we must remember that Jesus was most likely motivated by a sense of urgency. Their limited time would be better spent where people were more responsive. With compassion for those who had yet to hear God's good news, Jesus urged the apostles to press on.

### 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 acts of compassion are you engaged in as spiritual practice?**

**How are you/your congregation the Body of Christ in the world?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of June 11:

**Look for signs of God's love in creation this week.**

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