

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

May 27-June 2, 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 16:16–34 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=422600117>).

This week's readings are: Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21; John 17:20–26.

The theme is: Haunting Claims of Freedom.

The theme of this week's reading, according to our curriculum writers, is freedom, and there is no shortage of people who can testify to that theme. It starts with a slave girl who is being exploited for profit. When she calls out, Paul and Silas respond to her tragic situation only as a way to end the annoyance. Even so, the girl is healed and freed. Her freedom comes at the expense of her tormentors, who exploit the judicial system to remove Paul and Silas' freedom. In the context of worship and prayer, an earthquake opens the prison doors and allows Paul and Silas to go free. Showing that the jailer, too, is held prisoner by imperial power, he sees suicide as his only option when he assumes that the prisoners have escaped. Hearing that the prisoners are still there, the jailer knows that he is witnessing something new and more powerful than the empire he serves. He, too, experiences liberation when he and his family are baptized. All of these characters are freed by God's power to live in God's realm, a realm that calls them to live according to a new reality. That which seems to have power over this realm is exposed as being powerless; while the real source of power is found in God's love and forgiveness. It is a liberating power that is so radically different from the imperial power of the world that it grabs people's attention. Worship and prayer are at the center, but we shouldn't be surprised when the ground starts to shake!

### 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.*

**God was still working in Paul and Silas, as demonstrated when their response to the slave girl came from a place of annoyance. Liberation is a process rather than a one-time event.**

**From what do you need to be freed?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of May 26:

**A vision, prayer, Bible study, teaching were the means by which Paul and Lydia listened to**

**God. How do you listen for God's Spirit?**

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