

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

May 28-June 3, 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: 1 Samuel 3:1–10–20 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=388726228>).

Other readings are: Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; 2 Corinthians 4:5–12; Mark 2:23–3:6.

The theme is: Listening, Speaking, Acting.

This week's reading takes place during a time of chaos. Considering the history of this area, that comes as no surprise. It is important to remember, however, that the corruption and abuse of power that we have come to expect in the politics of this culture extended into worship as well. Eli and his sons were ministering in the sanctuary where the Arc of the Covenant was kept. Eli was a good man, but his sons were not. It was a dark time, and the "word of the Lord was rare in those days" (verse 1). Perhaps that is why Eli and Samuel failed to recognize God's voice. Samuel slept in a room with the Arc of the Covenant, which represented God's presence, while Eli slept in another part of the temple. In the middle of the night, Samuel was literally "called" by God, although he thought the voice must have been Eli's. Eli assured him that he did not call out to Samuel and eventually taught Samuel to hear and respond to God's call. At the time, Israel was ruled by judges; but a transition was about to occur whereby Israel would be ruled by kings. Samuel would be a key figure in this transition. God gave a message to Samuel, declaring that Eli's corrupt sons would not be in line for the future kingship. Instead, God had chosen Samuel to lead the people of Israel. It was a difficult message for Samuel to share with his mentor; but Eli, aware of his sons' corruption and his own inability to turn things around, accepted God's will. God had chosen a new leader in young Samuel.

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.

This passage is about call and speaking out. Who or what helps you to hear God's call? Who or what encourages you to take a stand?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of May 27:

When and how have you experienced the awesome power of God?

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