

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

June 3-9, 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 2:1-21 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q|=424165650>).

This week's readings are: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27).

The theme is: A Spirit Powered Faith.

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, bringing God's presence to people who no longer have Jesus walking beside them. The liberating work of God's Spirit challenges the politics of empire and celebrates the diversity of God's people. Jews from different parts of the Roman Empire are gathered together in Jerusalem to celebrate a religious festival. When Jesus' disciples proclaim God's saving acts, each person hears the message in his or her own language. There is no need for people to learn an official common language! While the power of empire is maintained by conformity, the power of the Spirit honors diversity. When some suggest that alcohol is responsible for the strange occurrence, Peter reminds them that it is too early to purchase alcohol. To explain the phenomenon, Peter turns to the prophet Joel, whose words offer more evidence regarding the ways in God's vision stands in complete contrast to the imperial vision of the Roman Empire. The Spirit calls all people, with no exclusions or limitations. Young, old, male, female, slaves, and free are empowered by the Spirit and given a common mission that does not require conformity. The Spirit not only gives the mission, but empowers people to carry it out. It is a mission of liberation, transforming people and unjust social orders. It is a mission that will challenge the status quo.

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.

Where do you see diversity being honored today? Where do you see diversity being feared today? What is our role as the church in confronting those fears and transforming the places where they are made manifest?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of June 2:

With which character in last week's story do you identify? Paul and Silas? The slave girl? The people profiting from the slave girl? The jailer?