

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

August 6-12, 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: Ephesians 4:25—5:2 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=391938420>).

Other readings are: 2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33; Psalm 130; John 6:35, 41–51.

The theme is: Anger to Love.

Ephesians continues to teach us how we are to live as the embodiment of Christ in the world. Since we are one body, anything that hurts one member harms the entire body. As an illustration, consider how a sore finger or toe can impact your whole body, mind, and spirit! In my own journey with back pain I learned about "referred pain" that starts in one part of the body but is felt in a completely different spot! Likewise, pain and injustices felt by one person ripple throughout the entire community, affecting the welfare of everyone. Therefore, the author urges us to live peaceably with all; but that is not always easy! People make us angry! Here the author reassures us that anger is OK. We are bound to get angry, but we are not bound to sin because of our anger. We must check our anger and control our response to that anger. Anger that motivates us to right injustices can be a very good thing, but anger that festers and divides people has no place in the lives of believers. Anger is a powerful force if left unchecked. We are told not to go to bed angry. We must recognize the power of our anger and deal with it constructively. There is power in our words as well. Because our speech can destroy as well as build up, we must choose our words carefully. Honest work is to be valued. These specific, practical teachings lead us to a more general guideline: imitate God; live a life of love as Christ did.

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 would it look like if you were to be an "imitator of God" (5:1)? Would it make a difference in how you deal with anger or the words that you use when speaking with others?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of August 5:

How can we celebrate the gifts of everyone, not just a few?

Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org

Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org