

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

July 30-August 5, 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 4:1–16 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=391932077>).

Other readings are: 2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a; Psalm 51:1–12; John 6:24–35.

The theme is: Building Up the Body.

The metaphor of the church as the Body of Christ is important to Pauline theology. That metaphor appears not only here in Ephesians but also in Romans and Corinthians. As Jesus embodies God, so the church is called to embody Jesus in the world and to bring God's presence into the world today and in the future. We are called to not only be the hands and feet of Jesus, carrying out his ministry of love and power, but to reflect the unity of Christ's Trinitarian relationship with God the Creator and the Holy Spirit. The Christian community is to reflect the relationship among Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are many yet one, and to teach others about that trinity of love! What a calling! To that end, each individual member is given a particular gift. Our diverse gifts fit beautifully together in order to bring about the unity God desires. Thus, unity is not sameness. We complement each other and need each other. Ephesians teaches us that it is a sign of maturity when we seek unity within our faith communities, embodying Christ in the world by how we live and work and love. The image is not one of a static church, but of a church that is actively growing and maturing to more completely reflect Christ, who is the embodiment of God.

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.

**How are you using your gifts in the community of faith
to embody Christ in the world?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of July 29:

Look for signs of God's abundant love.