

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

September 10-16, 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: Mark 8:27–38 ([bible.oremus.org/?ql=402727482](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=402727482)).

Other readings are: Proverbs 1:20–33; Psalm 19; James 3:1–12.

The theme is: Who Are You, Jesus?

This passage comes at the half-way point in Mark and is often referred to as a "hinge point." The narrative up to this point has focused on Jesus' ministry, first in Galilean territory and then in Gentile territories. From this point on Jesus, his disciples, and Mark's theology will be moving toward Jerusalem and the cross. We have already noted that geography is important in Mark's gospel. In this reading, Jesus and his disciples travel to Caesarea Philippi, the location of a shrine where people worshipped many different gods of various names. Here, with the journey to Jerusalem ahead of them, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" (verse 27) and finally "But who do you say that I am?" (verse 29). The disciples know the "right" answers to Jesus' question. They know the Messianic names, but they misunderstand what those titles mean. Like their contemporaries, the disciples are pinning their hopes on a Messiah who will lead a political revolt against the Roman empire that oppresses them and holds them powerless. When Jesus predicts his own suffering, Peter refuses to hear what he is saying. It doesn't fit with his theology or his expectation of a warrior Messiah! To make matters worse, Jesus makes it clear that his followers will share in his suffering; for his identity shapes his followers' identity. Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for the crosses that are ahead – his and theirs. The victory that they seek will come, but the road will be marked with suffering.

### 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 do you answer the question, "Who is Jesus?"**

**How has your answer to that question changed over the course of your life?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of September 9:

**A bold mother advocated for her child, the "outsider." Who is the unwelcome outsider who needs your advocacy?**