

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

August 27-September 2, 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: James 1:17–27 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=392706150>).

Other readings are: Song of Solomon 2:8–13; Psalm 45:1–2, 6–9; Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23.

The theme is: Deep, Perceptive Listening.

Throughout history, the letter of James has troubled some Christians who don't know what to make of its emphasis on works and its omission of references to Jesus (only mentioned twice briefly) and grace. However, rather than ignoring or discarding the letter, as some have done, we would do well to remember the purpose of this letter: to instruct first generation Christians regarding how to live the Christian life. Our reading begins with references to God's generosity. This reminder of God's actions toward us lays the foundation for the 59 imperatives that are contained in the letter's 108 verses! Our relationship with this generous God is what motivates our behavior. Our words and actions are offered in response to our faith in God, who gives "every perfect gift" (1:17). James calls us to do more than listen to God's word. We are called to action that is grounded in faith. The words that we say to others, the ways in which we handle our emotions, the ways in which we care for the vulnerable of society matter more to God than how many times we have heard the Scriptures being read. Having received God's gifts, we are led to be God's gift in the world. Having received God's love, we are called to loving actions. Having heard God's word and wisdom, we are called to do what God requires. Being people of faith, we are called to act with integrity.

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.

Name three things that you strongly believe. Identify specific actions that show those beliefs.

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of August 26:

Ephesians encouraged those who heard it to stand firm and even battle against empire, which in that time was personified by the Roman Empire. What is the empire of today?

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