

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

September 16-22, 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: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=434694030>).

Other readings are: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; Luke 16:1-13.

The theme is: Prayerful Living.

Bring up the subject of politics, and the conversation can quickly turn ugly. In today's political climate, both public and private discourses are often mean-spirited and devoid of respect. In the midst of this environment, we hear a call to pray for our political leaders. And before we say, "But things were different (as in easier) then, perhaps a refresher is in order. Those who first received these words were living under the control of the Roman Empire. The emperor claimed to be the son of god and demanded that he be worshiped. Subjects were required to make public oaths in front of statues of the emperor. Refusal to do so could result in hard labor, economic consequences, beatings, or death. Why would they pray for such leaders? According to our text, we are to pray for our political leaders because God is the God of ALL people, and God's desire is that all people live in peace, a peace for which Jesus gave his life. No one stands outside of God's reach. The love and redemptive power of God, as expressed in Christ's sacrifice, reaches to all people. Are our prayers for "everyone" (vs. 1) or only for ourselves, our loved ones, or those who "deserve" our prayers? When we pray for "everyone," we may find ourselves acting in ways that seek to make peace and justice a reality for all.

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.

**Pray daily for our political leaders,
beginning with those toward whom
you have the most negative feelings.**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of September 15:

**Whose story inspires you to live faithfully,
trusting in God's power rather than your own?**