

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 8-14, 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: 1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20) (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=380094377>)

Other readings are: Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; John 1:43–51

The theme is: Discerning God's Call

I've heard people lament that they have not heard God's call come loudly and clearly like it did in biblical times. Yet, even when God's voice is audible, as it is in this week's passage, it takes an old priest with failing vision to help Samuel understand that God is indeed calling him. The call comes at a time when God's voice seems to be going silent. Religious and military leaders are corrupt. A military threat is looming. The people are demanding a change in their political system. While their neighbors are ruled by kings, they are ruled by judges. Why can't they be like everyone else? The people want a king! Priest Eli's eyes are not the only things that are going dark! His own sons are corrupt, and Eli himself is culpable. But in the middle of that dark night God's voice comes to a young boy who does "not yet know the Lord" (verse 7). The call that comes to Samuel that night signals a shift as God's voice comes to prophets rather than priests. It is Samuel who will anoint David as king. But that will come later. His first prophetic task is to pronounce God's judgment on Eli, the very one who helped him discern God's call. This call is a call to a reformation that took place long before Martin Luther was born! What happened in that sacred space where a young boy was sleeping would impact the course of history.

### 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.*

**While Samuel's call was very personal, it changed how he related to the community. How do you live out a personal call in community with others?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 7:

**"Remember" your baptism. Touch your forehead with water and say aloud, "I am a beloved child of God."**