

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

October 16-22, 2017

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: Exodus 33:12–23 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=374216270>).

Other readings are: Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matthew 22:15–22

The theme is Our Whole Selves

We speak of God's presence with us as a certainty; yet we cannot point to a tangible reality. Even so, there are times when we can feel God's closeness. There are also times when God seems far away, and we yearn for some material evidence. Surely we can identify with the people of Israel who seek God's presence on their wilderness journey. Over and over again, they ask to be reassured of God's presence. Here we find Moses seeking that same reassurance. He has accepted God's call to lead the people to the land God has promised, but Moses knows that he cannot do it alone. He needs help. He wants God to show him what to do. God promises divine presence and rest. Moses continues to plead with God, saying that it is God's presence that will show that the people of Israel are special to God. Continuing to seek reassurance and "proof" of their unique relationship with God, Moses asks to see God's glory. It was believed and here is affirmed by God that no one could see God and live. God is Creator, not a created being, and cannot be seen by any created beings. We can only see the result of God's presence and actions. We cannot see the being we call God. How God is present with us is a mystery, and it is a mysterious encounter that Moses has in this passage. It is an encounter that provides him with what he needs to continue leading the people through the wilderness to the land of promise.

"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.

When it comes to your relationship with God, what is certain? What is mysterious?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of October 15:

Moses spent time in prayer, interceding on behalf of the people. Spend time in intercessory prayer this week. On whose behalf will you intercede?