

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

October 29-November 4, 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 12:28–34** (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=215148904>).

Other readings are: Ruth 1:1–18; Psalm 146; and Hebrews 9:11–14

The theme is: The Way of Love.

Keeping God's law was critical to the Jewish people, for those laws were integral to the covenant relationship they had with God. While all laws were seen as important, they often sought ways to summarize them or capture them into a few succinct statements. Rabbis were sometimes asked for their version of such succinct statements, and here we see that Jesus is given the challenge. He responds by quoting the *Shema* from Deuteronomy 6:4-5, a central creed of Judaism, declaring that God is one and worthy of our undivided love. Jesus then asserts the importance of extending that love to other people by quoting Leviticus 19:18. Interestingly the previous verse, Leviticus 19:17, defines the neighbor as a fellow Israelite; however, Jesus does not include that limitation in his rendering of the commandment. When we read this and other teachings of Jesus, it is clear that Jesus sees all people and all of creation as our neighbors. To love our neighbors as ourselves is to love "in the same way as." Self-love is not a sin. It is love of self that allows us to care for ourselves and give ourselves in ministry to others. How can we love the God who made us if we hate ourselves? How can we use our gifts to serve others if we see ourselves as worthless? Love of God, others, and self to be held in balance and in tension with one another. One is not more important than the other; rather, they enhance one another and together bring us closer to the reign of God.

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 would summarize your faith in one sentence?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of October 28:

Who is being silenced today? How can the church cry out for those who have trouble finding their voice or those who are silenced by others?