

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

February 11-17, 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: Luke 6:17–26 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q|=415340481>).

Other readings are: Jeremiah 17:5–10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12–20.

The theme is: Being Blessed.

What does it mean to be "blessed?" Does it mean entitled? Does it mean privileged? That is, after all, how it might be perceived. Are those who are blessed elevated above others? Do blessings lead to separation from others who are less blessed? In Luke's Sermon on the Plain, how are we to understand Jesus' blessing of the poor, hungry, and marginalized? Could this be another example of the reversal about which Mary sings in the Magnificat, "he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53)? Our reading begins by saying that the people have gathered to hear Jesus teach and to be healed by him. Jesus heals "all of them" (verse 19) before he delivers the well-known words of the Beatitudes. Healing in the Bible is about more than improved physical health. Healing provides wholeness and leads to reconciliation, as those who were once separated due to illness are now able to return to the community. Those who are healed by Jesus receive the blessing of connection with others. The blessings Jesus gives are life-changing. They lift up the most vulnerable and create a community where all belong, where all are made whole.

### 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.*

**Do your blessings separate you from the most vulnerable in society, or do they connect you to them? How can you be a blessing to others, not to family and friends but to those outside of your circle?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of February 10:

**Have you ever used your gifts in a new way or in a new context?**

**What was that experience like?**