

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

February 12-18, 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: Genesis 9:8–17 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=382095622>).

Other readings are: Psalm 25:1–10; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:9–15.

The theme is: God Loves Us.

On this first Sunday of Lent, we remember. Throughout church history, Lent has been a time to remember the brokenness of creation, including our own lives. Remembrance leads to penitence. In this week's reading, we remember God's covenant to never again allow a watery chaos to destroy the earth. The visible reminder of this promise is the rainbow, which came after the great flood. Yet, a careful reading reveals that the rainbow is not there so that we will remember; it is there so that *God* will remember! Is God forgetful? Does God, who is always faithful, actually need a reminder? The Hebrew people knew all too well the power that water had over life. Their own lives were constantly threatened by droughts and storms at sea. Flood stories were common to every culture, and the Hebrew people would have been familiar with their neighbors' stories of great floods. All of the stories were about destruction; yet, this story is about salvation and resurrection. The focus is on hope and a promise for the future. It is a promise that God will not forget. God will see to that. God put a reminder in place, though none is needed. The rainbow is a sign of God's everlasting covenant. The flood waters are powerful but not as powerful as God's faithful love.

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 can you live in partnership with all of creation as keepers of the covenant?

How can you be part of keeping God's promises?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of February 11:

In what ways might you need to resist the temptation to stay where you are (building "booths" like Peter suggested) in order to see what more God has ahead?

Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org

Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org