

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 31-February 3, 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 4:21–30 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=414137383>).

Other readings are: Jeremiah 1:4–10; Psalm 71:1–6; 1 Corinthians 13:1–13

The theme is: Power of the Word.

We pick up this week exactly where we left off last week. Having returned home, Jesus is in the synagogue where he read and commented upon words from Isaiah. According to verse 22, the hometown crowd is in his corner, for "All spoke well of him"; but seven verses later the same crowd is trying to push him off the cliff! Why the sudden change? Jesus, who has healed people in other cities, indirectly tells the people not to expect the same thing in his hometown. It was an understood ethical imperative that people were to first show care for their own families, then for the community, and finally for foreigners. Jesus had broken the code by first performing miracles among outsiders! Now, by telling their stories, Jesus is aligning himself with the prophets Elijah and Elisha, who also extended their ministries outside the Jewish community. Feeling betrayed, the people who once shared a home with Jesus and spoke well of him are enraged to the point of attempted murder! In response, Jesus does not back down or soften his message. He does not placate them with a miracle or two. He simply (rather inexplicably) passes through the crowd and goes on his way. God's word is not always comforting. It is not always recognized as "Good News." It does not always say what we expect or want to hear. If we are paying attention, it might even be disturbing, demanding changes that make us uncomfortable, perhaps even angry.

### 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 do you respond when the word is not one that you want to hear?**

**Are there parts of Jesus' message and example that still make you uncomfortable?**

**What are they?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 27:

**Jesus was at home in the synagogue, but his message made other people uncomfortable.**

**What is it that makes you feel "at home" in a place of worship?**

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