

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 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: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=417515404>).

Other readings are: Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31–35.

The theme is: Journey toward Trust.

As we move through our own Lenten journey, we turn to a story about Abram and Sarai, two people who knew firsthand what it was like to journey through the wilderness. Abram and Sarai had left their home in search of God's promised descendants and land. Leaving the "known" for the "unknown" is difficult, even if what is known is far from perfect, but the couple began their journey with faith in God and God's promises. Here we find Abram growing discouraged, as time passes with no sign of the promises being fulfilled. How can Abram continue the journey, trusting the One who made those promises, despite the lack of evidence that he is any closer to seeing the promises come true? It is a question that we face on our own Lenten journeys. How do we carry on in faith, holding onto a promise when everything around us screams that the promise is nothing more than a crazy dream? Could Abram rely on anything God said? How did he know that any of it was true? The answer would be found in a ritual. The gory ritual described in our reading may be repulsive to us, but it was a commonly understood ritual in Abram's culture. Rituals renew our trust and remind us why we are on the journey. Trust is not something we can hold onto and draw upon in unlimited supply. There are new questions, fears, doubts, and disappointments each day. Trust must be reclaimed. Each day we must begin the journey again. The rituals of worship, prayer, devotions, meditation, singing, or journaling renew our trust and enable us to begin the journey again.

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.

When your journey is marked by fear rather than trust, what rituals do you depend upon to renew your trust and help you begin the journey again?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 10:

The people were instructed to share their "first fruits" with the "aliens who reside among you" (Deut. 26:11). How can you do that today?

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