

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 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: Jeremiah 31:31–34 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=383294005>).

Other readings are: Psalm 51:1–12, Hebrews 5:5–10, John 12:20–33.

The theme is: God's Love Is on Our Hearts.

The prophet Jeremiah was called to warn God's people that they would be defeated in battle and taken into exile as a result of their unfaithfulness. Needless to say, the message and the messenger were not very popular! He advised the people to stop fighting their powerful rival Babylon. As a result, Jeremiah was seen as a traitor and narrowly escaped execution numerous times. As the people ignored Jeremiah's warnings, the "Weeping Prophet" had to not only endure persecution and physical suffering, but he had to face the emotional pain of seeing all that he had foretold come to pass. This week's reading comes after Jerusalem was destroyed and the people were taken into exile in Babylon. Jeremiah's prophesy had come true. The people had proven that, despite every warning, they were not capable of following God's laws and keeping the covenant. The surprising prophesy that Jeremiah now offers is that God will not only remain faithful but will make a new and better covenant by placing the covenant in the human heart rather than on stone tablets. The covenant will no longer be an external reality that can be ignored but rather an inseparable part of each person. That day is coming, promised Jeremiah, a prophet who once spoke of doom and judgment but now speaks of hope.

### 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.*

**What has God written on your heart?**

**What difference does that make in how you live?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 11:

**How have you experienced God's steadfast love, even in the midst of a difficult situation?**