

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

March 25-31, 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 15:1-3, 11b-32 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=418899444>).

This week's readings are: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

The theme is: A Traitor for Grace.

We read a familiar story this week. It is usually given the title of "The Prodigal Son," but it is also known as the parable of "The Loving Father." In this year of "Choosing Welcome," it seems appropriate to focus on the father's unconditional welcome, a welcome that defies the patriarchal norms of his society. Even if a father dared to prematurely give an inheritance to his son, he would have done so only under the condition of close supervision. Both the patriarchy and the empire depended upon rules and consequences, but this father rejects the norms of patriarchy and empire in favor of grace. He gives both sons freedom to make their own decisions and live their own lives, with the only consequences being those that occur naturally as the result of their choices. When this parable is understood within the context of Jesus' mission to proclaim the Year of Jubilee (Luke 4:16-21), it is heard as a story about a patriarch who chooses grace, compassion, and radical welcome over the patriarchal rules of society. It is a welcome that is countercultural in its reach. It is a welcome that offers a new beginning.

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 does a radical, countercultural welcome look like for our congregation? For you personally? To whom might it be extended?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of March 24:

Do you sometimes confuse wants with needs? Think about what you truly need. Check the "want/need" language that you use with yourself and others. How do you find what you need in your relationship with God?