

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 8-14, 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 19:28–40; 22:14-23:56

(<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=418978483>).

This week's readings are: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29; Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16; Philippians 2:5–11.

The theme is: Palm/Passion Sunday

We are challenged this week by the sheer length of our reading and the extreme poles of emotions we encounter. Add to those challenges the fact that we cannot fully grasp the realities that were part of daily life for those who formed the crowds that lined the streets. They struggled with some of the same issues we struggle with today: family relationships and illness among them. But they also lived under the thumb of the Roman Empire. They lived in fear of the very visible Roman soldiers. They daily walked past the crosses that reminded them who was in control. They knew people who did not choose their words carefully and ended up dead. They knew that Jesus may be next. So, why are they so joyful? Because they have made a choice. According to scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, there were two parades that day. The one that we celebrate was a peasant procession entering Jerusalem from the east. But from the west, Governor Pilate led an imperial procession that put military might on display and declared the power of empire. In that moment the crowds who welcomed Jesus chose to stand on the side of God's eternal power rather than the imperial power of Rome. The conflict that was demonstrated by these two different processions was one that would drive the events of the week ahead – the week known as Holy Week.

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 challenges do you face in your daily life?

What choices can you make to face those challenges with bold hope?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of April 7:

What examples of extravagant love have you witnessed?

Challenge yourself to show extravagant love this week.

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