

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 9-15, 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: Luke 24:36b–48 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=385103851>).

Other readings are: Acts 3:12–19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1–7.

The theme is: Love Means Showing Up.

Christ is alive! He is risen! But what does that mean? How do we understand the resurrection? The answers to those questions were difficult even for the disciples who were in the presence of the risen Christ. He had shown up! There he was, standing right in front of them, offering them peace as he had done on so many occasions; yet, his presence was somehow unfamiliar and even frightening to his intimate friends. He was with them, but in a new and different way that could not be easily grasped. When he convinces them of who he is, the disciples are joyful yet still uncertain. How can they know for certain? How can they experience the risen Christ in an undeniable and life-changing way that will enable them to birth a movement that will change the world and in many cases cost them their lives? Demonstrating that he is not a ghost, Jesus eats with them. Sharing a meal is a wonderful act of hospitality even today, but it was so much more for Jesus' contemporaries! People who ate together were connected to one another in an intimate and mutual way. The risen Jesus was not just walking the earth and passing through locked doors in a ghost-like fashion; he was communing with his friends, offering welcome, support, and nourishment while receiving the same from them in an act of hospitality. He was also sharing the Scriptures with them, revealing to them things they could not understand apart from the resurrection. How did the disciples experience the resurrected Christ? By sharing a meal and studying the Scriptures, holy practices in which he still "shows up" today!

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.

In what ways is Jesus "showing up" through you and through your faith community?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of April 8:

Remember that Easter is a Season rather than a day. Look for the Risen Christ!

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