

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 15-21, 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: John 20:1-18 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=418986429>).

This week's readings are: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26.

The theme is: Easter Day.

Recent news has been filled with too many examples of ways in which religious leaders have caused suffering and engaged in deception, abuse of power, and secret-keeping. To say that people have been let down by the church is an understatement. Likewise, Mary's grief at Jesus' death was compounded by the fact that religious leaders had been complicit in helping the Roman authorities to execute Jesus. It is no wonder that when Mary finds Jesus' tomb empty, she assumes that someone has taken his body to a place where his followers would not be able to find him. She shares her assumption of deceit and treachery with the male disciples who return to their homes after investigating for themselves. But Mary remains at the tomb, where she has an encounter that has forever changed history. Consumed by grief, Mary at first does not recognize the voice that is speaking to her as belonging to Jesus. How could it be? The voice that political and religious leaders tried so desperately to silence calls Mary's name. There are no trumpets or choirs singing loud "Alleluias," only his voice calling her name. The assurance of resurrection comes through tears of unimaginable grief, anger, and bewilderment. Mary has seen the Lord through her tears, and she hasn't stopped telling the story ever since!

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.

Have you ever seen or heard Jesus through your tears?

How can you share that story with others?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of April 14:

In what ways is joy a means of resistance?