

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 2-8, 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: John 20:19–31 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=385032723>).

Other readings are: Acts 4:32–35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2.

The theme is: Love Is A Response to Grace.

The disciples have good reason to be afraid after Jesus' crucifixion. No doubt the political tensions only increased after stories of Jesus' resurrection began to surface. The disciples knew that they, too, would be seen as a threat that must be eliminated. When the risen Jesus enters that fear-filled room, he offers peace. He also talks about forgiving the sins of others. The Greek word for sin, *hamartia*, is an archery term that means "missing the mark." What archer would not expect to "miss the mark" from time to time? And what happens after one misses the mark? The archer reaches for another arrow and tries to correct his or her mistake. Our curriculum states that "Grace, in this case, may look like a quiver full of arrows." (Seasons of the Spirit, SeasonsFUSION Lent/Easter 2018, p. 132) A gracious God forgives us and offers us a second, third, and fourth chance with countless chances after that. Having received that grace, we respond in love and forgive others. Thomas, who was absent from this gathering behind locked doors, later receives the peace and grace he needs as well. Jesus enters our fears and our doubts to bring us peace and grace that we might carry the love we have received into the world.

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 quiet meditation, sit with your fears and doubts and breathe in the Spirit or breath of God. Hear Christ bid you "Peace."

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of April 1:

When have you heard Christ call your name? How do you listen for his voice?