

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

May 14-20, 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: Acts 2:1–21 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q=388125188>)

Other readings are: Psalm 104:24–35b; Romans 8:22–27; John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

The theme is: Alive in Love

This week we read the dramatic story of Pentecost, when the church comes to life and is "on fire" so to speak for Jesus! Lest we get caught up in the sensational "special effects" of the drama, we need to pause and reflect on what the Spirit of God is saying to the church universal through this story. First, we note that the believers "were all together in one place" (verse 1). Acts 1:15 mentions 120 people (Perhaps it is not insignificant that this number is ten times twelve!). This is not a close-knit group of friends or a community that regularly worship together. This is a diverse group of people who come from different places, who speak different languages, and bring different life experiences; but they have Jesus in common. They are a diverse group of people who, apart from Jesus, would not be together. So, the first thing we notice is that this diverse group has gathered as one community, defined by faith. Second, we note that each person hears the testimony about "God's deeds of power" (verse 11) in his or her own language. "None had to change languages or cultures to hear the good news; none had to become a different person to experience the presence of Christ. The Spirit of God, working in and through the believers, came to people where they were in the language of home and heart. (*Seasons of the Spirit™* SeasonsFUSION Lent • Easter 2018, p. 204) In this dramatic story, God's creative Spirit is at work, teaching us a lesson in diversity and community.

### 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.*

**How can you communicate the Good News in ways that speak to all people, no matter their culture, politics, or circumstances in life?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of May 13:

**Do you look to particular leaders or mentors in matters of faith? If so, who are they?**