

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

April 30-May 6, 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 15:9–17 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?q|=386759682>).

Other readings are: Acts 10:44–48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1–6

The theme is: Loving Friends.

Anyone who is a follower of Jesus is also his friend. The relationship is an intimate one defined by love, the same kind of love that God has for Jesus. Faithful obedience is a response to and an expression of that love. Jesus' followers obey his teachings not because they are servants or because they are hired hands who are seeking a reward but because they are known and loved by Jesus, even as Jesus was known and loved by God. So are Jesus' followers to love others with that same kind of love that Jesus shows to them. We cannot love God without loving others. Jesus is inviting his followers to join the great dance that he and God the Creator have been dancing since the beginning of time. It is a dance in which the partners know the movements of one another as well as they know their own, in which the partners trust one another fully and give themselves completely, a dance in which partners blend their separate movements to create one seamlessly beautiful dance. Such intimacy involves willing sacrifice, as we follow the lead of Jesus. We don't have to break our way into this dance. We are invited to join, called to take the steps and perform the movements that will bring the choreography to life. Rather than watching from a distance, we are chosen to join this joyful, intimate dance of love.

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 does it mean to you that Jesus chooses you as a friend?
Spend time in quiet meditation or listening to music, imagining the Great Dance
that you are called to be a part of!

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of April 30:

What spiritual practices or holy habits help you to "abide" in Christ?