

## WEEKDAY WORSHIP

September 11-17, 2017

*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: Exodus 14:19–31 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=369898025>).

Other readings are: Psalm 114; Matthew 18:21–25; Romans 14:1–2.

The theme is Road to Freedom.

The story of the Exodus, which we read this week, is central to the Jewish and Christian faiths alike. It tells the story of a God who hears the cries of an oppressed people and acts in mighty ways to rescue them. Seeing God's actions on their behalf, the people believe and journey in freedom as they learn what it means to be God's people. It is a story that has provided inspiration to many who have struggled to travel the road to freedom, including early Protestant settlers who fled persecution in Europe and African Americans who fought for civil rights. God led the Hebrew people on their journey to freedom. The daytime cloud and nighttime pillar of fire affirmed God's guiding presence. When the Hebrews found themselves trapped between a body of water and the army of Pharaoh, God intervened. A wall of water allowed safe passage for the Hebrews but finally destroyed their pursuers. Questions that we might ask about the enemy's violent destruction at the hands of God were not a concern in the worldview of those who told the story. They simply knew that God delivered them through the water, a symbol of God's creative, transformative, saving acts. The waters of baptism bring this story to remembrance and provide the passage to our own road to freedom and transformation.

### 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.*

**God hears the cries of the oppressed and saves them, leading them to freedom.**

**What does it mean for you today to know that God is a Liberating God? How do/ can you celebrate and participate in the liberating acts of God?**

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of September 10:

**What rituals play an important part in your faith?**

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