

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

You, the Christ, are the only way
WE HAVE NO OTHER

The world today hangs on a single thread. And that thread is the psyche of humanity
CG Jung

Everything depends on whether we can abandon our pride before it is too late.
Bede Griffiths 20th c

Then, set free from the worlds of sense and of intellect, the soul enters in to the mysterious obscurity of holy ignorance and...loses itself in him who cannot be seen nor apprehended. Then the soul knows a special joy; fruition, or the touch divine.
Dionysius 5th c

Take a bit of inventory of the “many things” distracting you, worrying you. I can make some educated guesses I bet.

Politics. Financial issues/concerns. Health issues/concerns. Family issues/concerns. Grief. Anger. Fear. Or maybe something like what had Martha so worried----what to fix for dinner.

Something, or many things, had Martha worried even before Jesus arrived. This was her “normal” as it is also ours. She was unsettled. On the surface of things, she was managing ok----she invites Jesus in, and heads to the kitchen to make some sandwiches. But she is not in a good place. We don’t know why. But it finally comes out. “I’m doing all the work by myself.”

Oh my God. Can you see it?

Is this the chronic plague of our postmodern culture?

SO MANY PEOPLE out there thinking they have to do all the things, cope with all the things, process all the things, worry about all the things, do all the work, BY THEMSELVES!

I blame houses without front porches. For 50 years or more we’ve been building obstacles to connection to the wider world...to neighbors.

The plague of BY MYSELF has always been an issue...we see it playing out here in the first century. But it might be an epidemic in our time and context. Martha, bless her, finds a way to express it, to give words to her angst. But we are living in this culture with so much unspoken psychic weight bending us over, and getting expressed in not good ways, in unhealthy ways.

“I’m doing the work all by myself.” Here is Martha, capable, strong, independent. She seems to be a homeowner here. Finding her way to a place of vulnerability, “I am doing all this work by myself.” A confession of need. A confession of helplessness. But also a spiritual breakthrough. Pride giving way to a very healthy humility.

She used to be “hey look at me I am doing all the work by myself.” It was all right and good. Now she’s coming from a deeper place of wisdom offering her a way toward wholeness and health. “Hey I’m doing all the work by myself. And this is NOT a good thing.”

Could it be that the simple presence of Jesus in her home, the strength of his presence, his groundedness, created a psychological safe space, and freed Martha up to recognize that she could not, actually, do all the work by herself? That’s a rhetorical question.

Of COURSE it was the presence of Jesus that gifted her with this breakthrough, this revelation into herself, this inner wisdom emerging from the depths of her soul into the light where it could be seen and claimed and expressed in a way that allowed her and Jesus to connect in a moment that was for her life-giving. Honesty about her need.

And life-giving maybe for Jesus too. He has set his eyes on Jerusalem. He knows he cannot live into his mission there all by himself. One can easily imagine how good it will be for him, down the road, to know of Martha's love for him and Mary's too.

Amy Grant sings:

Don't try so hard

God gives you grace and you can't earn it

Don't think that you're not worth it

Because you are

Let's imagine----What happened next at Martha's house? Did she go back to the kitchen? Maybe. But the Martha that went back into the kitchen was not the same Martha that came out. Or maybe she sat down with Mary at Jesus' feet. And three hours later they all went into the kitchen and cooked together.

Did Martha's worries vanish like a puff of smoke? Nope. But Jesus' words to her about the "one thing" most certainly graced and re-shaped the landscape of her soul in freeing and empowering ways.

May we with ears to hear----listen.

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD-GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLINES OF CHRIST

July 21, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Your love, God, is our song, and we'll sing it!

WE'LL NEVER QUIT TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR LOVE!

Let the cosmos praise your wonderful ways!

YOUR VIBRANT BEAUTY HAS GOTTEN INSIDE US!

Lighting of the Candles

"Whatever enraptures the heart is a ray from my friend." Rumi

87 I Will Sing of the Mercies

We Welcome One Another as Christ

Vocal Solo Josh Kelley

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"Quietude is indeed joy." Wang Wei

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Search us God, and know our hearts

SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN US, AND LEAD US TO THE WAY EVERLASTING

THE GOSPEL LUKE 10: 38-42

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "One Thing" Rev. Rob Carr

**O God we praise you for the multitudes of women, men, young people and children,
who are seeking to be witnesses of peace, trust, and reconciliation throughout the world.**

**Grant us to prepare ourselves inwardly, day after day, to place our trust
in the mystery of faith. Amen**

Silent and spoken prayers of confession, intercession, thanksgiving

Vocal Solo Josh Kelley

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

414 Eat This Bread 3X

We yearn for you O Beloved!

IN YOU WE FIND REFUGE AND STRENGTH

Shape us by the breath of your Spirit

CULTIVATE IN US HEARTS GREAT WITH COMPASSION AND MERCY

In this cherished company of these your friends

REVEAL TO US THE FACE OF CHRIST

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

We live in hope of that day

WHEN GOD WIPES EVERY TEAR FROM OUR EYES

Hope that is not mere wishful thinking

BUT CONFIDENCE THAT THE DAY IS ALREADY DAWNING IN US

May you be made strong with all the strength of his glorious power

CHRIST IN US, THE HOPE OF GLORY

The Communion Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

Bind Us Together (handout)

Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us

TO ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via

Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Monday 6PM Troop 900

Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group at Kate's

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY--PARKING LOT RESURFACING—NO ACCESS

Every Sunday this summer at Sunfresh 9AM-----Coffee and Conversation

UPCOMING

MUSIC SUNDAY AUGUST 4

JEFF Nunn is ready to receive suggestions for hymns to be sung that day. Feel free to email or text him OR use the basket provided on the piano. Last year's Music Sunday was a hit. Invite a friend!

YOU, ME, AND THE ENNEAGRAM

Part One of the Enneagram Workshop, offered again for our community by Lori Hall

Friday, September 6th and Saturday, September 7th

Details forthcoming!

CHERITH BROOK SEEKING ITEMS

such as small men's and women's undies, sugar, razors, bike locks, gauze pads and medical tape, for their friends experiencing homelessness.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Join us on Sunday August 18 at Smithville Lake for the Baptism of our good friend Howard Dolginoff.

Directions to our usual place at the lake will be provided at the date approaches.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Our annual brown bag lunch celebration with a blessing of backpacks and recognition of teachers is scheduled for August 18. Wonderful opportunity to invite a friend!