



Sunday 17th July 2022

YouTube Introit: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord 2011

Northern Baptist Association

<https://youtu.be/ZuqvUQ4m90U>

Welcome

May the worship be a blessing for you



Image from Revised Common Lectionary

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.

Call to worship

We are called to sit at the feet of Jesus
To listen and learn from him
We are called to pray, then act
**Let us listen to the Lord in our hearts,
then bring his wisdom and love into the world**

Prayers (©Tina Lyndon)

Adoration

Loving God, always there for us
Present and powerful
Helping us whenever we face challenges
Comforting us and offering us peace
When we sit quietly with you
We are restored and filled with your love
We are strengthened for the journey

Jesus, our companion,
 Encouraging us to sit at your feet and listen and learn,
 teaching us how to just be, to be in God
 and minister from that place, a place of love, hope and wisdom.

Holy Spirit,
 Encouraging and inspiring us, leading us into God's peace,
 where we dwell and find our anchor against all storms,
 keeping us grounded in God, and blessing us,
 as we respond to God from our heart.

Invocation

Come Holy Spirit Come
Come upon us today Holy Spirit

Confession

Lord, if we haven't chosen the better path and have run all over the place,
 If we have been consumed with being busy, and have not spent time sitting at your feet,
 listening to God before acting,
 if we have hurt another or ourselves, forgive us Lord.
 If another has hurt us, give us grace to forgive them.
 Help us find a way forward, as we come before you now in this moment of silence.

Hear then Christ's words of grace to us
"Your sins are forgiven"

THANKS BE TO GOD

**Hymn 693 Come as you are
 Paul Gurr 2013 (Willemina)**

<https://youtu.be/b0cbQS55RTM>

Reading - Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ 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.' ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing.^[a] Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.' ©NRSV National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

**Hymn 675 Lord the Light of your Love is Shinning (with percussion instruments)
 (Shine Jesus Shine)**

Graham Kendrick 1987 Mayway music (ASKBB)2007

<https://youtu.be/gr5Y63bDNNg>



Young at Heart

Questions to ponder and pray about or discuss

We cannot sit all day, praying and contemplating
 We cannot work and minister all day long without any rest
 How do we live a balanced life?
 What's important and what did Jesus mean when he said:
 "Mary had chosen the better part or way?"

Hymn 681: Lord let me see 2021 – TmT video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z8roH9ocFM&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLIsLD2rC&index=8>

Sermon – Rev Tina

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen

Have you ever been distracted by many tasks? So distracted, you've asked a guest to intervene in a family dispute? I'm not sure our culture would approve or Martha's. I don't know whether I'd be game.

What if it made the guest uncomfortable? What if they were offended and didn't want to visit again? That's not hospitality!



Image from Revised Common Lectionary

Martha said: *Tell Mary to help me!*

We can understand where Martha is coming from. Perhaps Jesus didn't make an appointment, like people do in our culture. He simply may have arrived, and Martha probably had to go to the market, ask for food from neighbours or use up their stock of food and she may have spent hours preparing the meal. This was a culture that offered hospitality. It was expected. Martha was feeling frustrated. We all feel frustrated at times.

Once a year I have a get together with family and friends and spend days planning the meal, shopping and cleaning and cooking. Nagging my poor saint of a husband to help. When they all arrive, I'm busy in the kitchen preparing food for the feast and setting tables. Making sure everything is just right. I say: *I enjoy it.* When they say: *Sit down, join us.*

I haven't seen them for ages and this year, if it happens, it will be the first time since 2019. Sometimes I ask myself: What's more important? Perhaps I will make the feast a simple one this year and spend time with my guests. Yes, I can understand where Martha is coming from. So does Jesus. He says: *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 from her.*

Of course, in those days Mary's actions were counter cultural. Men got to sit at Jesus' feet, while women stayed in the kitchen. Perhaps Jesus is inviting Martha to join Mary and sit at his feet. I wonder if Martha got it and understood and accepted the invitation. I wonder if she was able to put aside her fussing and busyness and take on the role of a disciple.

I wonder if Martha realised there was enough food. I'm sure Jesus would have been happy with olive oil, bread, olives, a bowl of veggies and glass of wine and perhaps some cheese. What on earth was Martha cooking that took so much time and effort?

But this is easier said than done. When we invite people into our homes, we tidy things up and cook or buy something special to offer our guests and when they arrive, we invite them into our lounge and spend time with our guest. This is expected in our culture. We do like to fuss and look after our guests.

I grew up in Gippsland where everyone knew 4:00 PM was afternoon teatime and there was an open invitation for family or neighbours to drop by for a cuppa or scones or cake or biscuits. Or a slab of cheese, homemade salami and olives and a glass of wine.

What Jesus is saying is he's happy with whatever food is offered. What's more important is to spend time with him. Life is short. Family and friends need not fuss over him, just be with him. He doesn't have high expectations or set rules or boundaries.

All are welcome and equally valued and loved.

Faith is greater than food.

Quiet moment of Reflection



Offering Prayer

(about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have)

Lord and giver of every good thing we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom all for transformation through your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen.

Prayers of the People – Rhonda Goodall

Let us pray together in our prayers of the people for the people.

How great and wonderful you are, Lord, you strengthen and guide us every day.

Today, Lord, we remember in our prayers the people of Djibouti and Somalia, both African countries situated in the Horn and eastern coast of Africa. Both countries although arid have experienced severe drought and civil wars in recent times which have compounded the extreme poverty of the population of each country. Be with these people and their leaders as they make decisions for the benefit of their people and lift them out of poverty. Assist their leaders to make decisions that will encourage equity and the resolution of civil wars and the redistribution of wealth.

In our ecumenical prayers, Lord, we pray for St. Timothy's Catholic Church Forest Hills under the guidance of Father Gerard Johnson. We give thanks for their Social Justice, Youth and Ecology groups. Be with their leaders, Lord, as they continue the good work in the community through the outreach of each group.

In our prayers for the Uniting Church we remember the Habitat cluster comprising St David's in Canterbury and the Augustine centre Hawthorn. We give thanks for their service of outreach and commitment to the service of others. Lord bless them as they continue their good work.

The Peter MacCullum Cancer Centre chaplaincy provides a worthy service for the spiritual care of patients, families and staff to reflect and explore life issues affected by cancer during difficult times. Be with these chaplains as they offer solace in times of uncertainty and grief.

Lord, bless our community Whitehorse Uniting Cluster. Guide us and give us encouragement to promote our mission in the caring for others. Be with those in our community who are suffering from grief, pain or illness; let them feel your comforting presence and peace during these trying times.

Lord, as we go from this place today guide us in every hour of the new week. Enable us to see your glory in the faces of our neighbours, and give us the grace to do the hard things cheerfully and to enjoy the easy tasks gratefully and as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray together

Our father in Heaven. Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, you are before all things; you are beyond all things;
and in the midst of all things and all peoples you have made yourself known.

In Israel's ancient codes and prophetic oracles,
in stories of women and men, of communities and nations seeking identity,
feeling their strength, and struggling with their weakness
you have made yourself known.

In Jesus of Nazareth, in compassion for the outcast,
forgiveness for the fallen, hope for the poor and hungry;

in his life poured out for others and broken in rejection and disdain
you have made yourself known.

We proclaim your power in goodness and your might in compassion, as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Most powerful Holy Spirit
Come down upon us from heaven where the ordinary is made glorious
and glory seems but ordinary, bathe us with the brilliance of your light like dew.

We greet the one who comes in your name,
your true light, your true love, the bread of compassion, the wine of renewal.

As he broke bread before the brokenness of his death, **(Break Bread)**
as he poured out wine before his blood was poured out on the cross, **(Hold up Cup)**
as he gave his life in acts of goodness, as he invited all to the feast of new hope,
so come to us, God of Jesus, in your love.

Come to us, Spirit of our Lord of love,
and let the bread and wine before us bear your life to our life,
nourish us with his vision of hope, and unite us in one body of peace.

Nurture us with your brokenness, renew us with your poured out life, empower us with your powerlessness,
that we may take root in your risen life and bear fruit in your world.

**You are our life;
you are our hope;
you are our peace;
and we praise you. Amen.**

The bread of life is offered to us.
We feed on the bread of life with gratitude

The cup of the newness of life is offered to us.
We drink of the cup with gratitude.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

Prayer after communion

**God of truth and love who calls us and leads us into the future, make us a blessing for others
Help us to see creation as being in the future and to love it into being.**

May we hold on to the hope You have planted in us,
believing the unbelievable, reaching for the unattainable,
trusting the things beyond seeing and the things beyond hearing,
loving and living with compassion, offering hospitality and hope,
until the people who walk in darkness see the great light and are glad and free.

The Prayer - Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion 2015

https://youtu.be/qt_OkgSOrkU

Blessing

We go in Peace
in the love of God
in the Power of the Spirit
May the Lord Bless and Guard us
May the Lord make His face shine upon us
and be gracious unto us
As we bring Christ's love and peace to the world. Amen

Hymn 778: Shalom to you now – tMt video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oqiFenWxY&list=PL5dbbdzyKBag-mEd9qTgdyYNQLsLD2rC&index=35>

Pastoral Care tips – Rev Tina



An awful lot of church is done in our kitchens, with conversations over the table with loved ones. I've lived in several homes now and every time people visit, they head for the kitchen, and we sit around the table having conversations with food and drink. We spend a lifetime in kitchens and before we know it, life is nearly over and we come to the place we have always visited and know it for the first time as a home church, a place where we have come to know God through others.

I have several books that speak of this:

The kitchen congregation, a memoir by Nora Seton about all the conversations she has had in the kitchen over her lifetime.

Radical Hospitality by Daniel Horman, about hospitality beginning within our hearts.

Leunig's book, *A common Prayer*, which has a saying:

Love is like Bread. It has to be made fresh every day.

Our kitchen in our home on Gabo Island Lighthouse had a large wood-fired stove. My Dad used to make bread and the smell used to drift throughout the entire house. In the same way when we sit at Jesus' feet or with another person in his presence, love, like bread, is made and drifts throughout our home, body and soul.