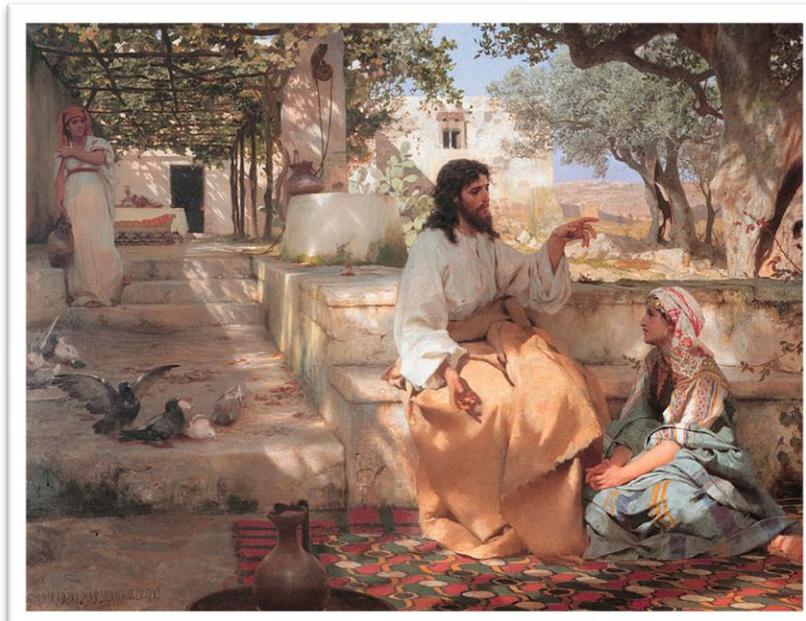




Mary and Martha, by He Qi



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary by Henryk H. Siemiradzki

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP, JULY 17, 2022
**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CINCINNATI, OH



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Welcome/Announcements

[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]

Prelude: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" —arr. Whitworth

Ring of the Tower Bell

[Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

*** Call to Worship (Responsive)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

When we think of God's presence in the world, we are grateful:

Grateful for the presence of hope and for the gift of life.

And when we think of God's presence in our lives, we are humbled:

Humbled by God's grace and by the invitation to begin again.

When we think of God's presence in this community, we are glad:

Glad to be joined by others worshipping our Holy God.

Friends, we know what God desires of us:

That we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

We gather this morning to remind each other about that,

Remembering that now is always the right time to do them.

So with thankful hearts, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

* **Hymn No. 442 (vv. 1, 3, 5):** “*The Church’s One Foundation*”

The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.



Invitation/Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have our priorities completely out of balance. Forgive us for the many ways that we trample on your will and dismiss your Word. Forgive us when we do not know when to be workers and when to be hearers. Redeem us, by your grace. In your mercy, heal our worries and our judgments, so that we can, indeed, keep the best part. Give us hearts and minds that are focused on you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness (*Responsive*)

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Brothers and sisters, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

May the peace of Christ—beyond all understanding be with you always!

And also with you!

* **Response: Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS



July WestFed Food Pantry needs: Canned meat, baked beans, shampoo.



Flowers are given this week in loving memory of:

- ♥ Marion Pearson by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- ♥ Marlene Tarvin, Jane Van Schoik, Jim Phillipps and Fay Streicher.



Keep Cincinnati Beautiful—At **8:45 a.m. on Saturday, July 23**, a group from WFPC will again participate, gathering at Westwood Town Hall. Go to <https://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/> for more information and to sign up.



BLOC Ministries—On Saturday, August 6, we are gathering upstairs at BLOC Coffee Company at 801 Mt Hope Ave, Cincinnati OH 45204, to learn more about this fantastic ministries and see how we might partner with them! The orientation starts at 9 a.m. Please see Wendy Beckman if you have questions!



Prayers are requested for:

- ♥ Wendy’s former student, Nick, whose condition has worsened after a 12 year battle with cancer. Please pray for Nick’s family, his doctors, and his comfort.
- ♥ Fern Heylmun and her family after the death of her twin sister, Faye Streicher.
- ♥ Sandy Morris, who had surgery recently.
- ♥ Cynthia Hines, Sandy Morris’ sister, and husband DJ, dealing with health issues.
- ♥ Mike and Amy Babicke’s 8 mo. old nephew Luke, who has Kawasaki disease.
- ♥ Cathie DeFazio, who is dealing with a rare melanoma behind her right eye, and Larry DeFazio, who is healing from a torn right rotator cuff.
- ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
- ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
- ♥ Our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
- ♥ Our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
- ♥ Our partnership with City Gosel Mission’s Little Princesses Ballet.

Pray WITHOUT
CEASING

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: THE BETTER PART

In this familiar passage, Martha and Mary find themselves with Jesus as their guest. It is worth asking what in the world this passage has to do with the broader ministry of Jesus, and—frankly—what does it have to do with us? We know the Scriptures recount this with something much more in mind than to highlight the personality differences of these two sisters. I believe the purpose of this passage is to highlight two very different ways of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This contrast we see in the examples of Martha and Mary.

No doubt Martha was full of hospitable zeal. It's not every day you have the Messiah/King as your guest of honor, and this pious Jewish woman only hoped to be a worthy host. You probably have a Martha in your life. Maybe you are her. She (or he) is hospitable, hard-working, and laser-focused on what needs to get done. We need these folks, the Martha-types in the church. No one can argue that they know how to get things done. The problem is that such folks often feel this pressure and are overtly aware of what they perceive as everyone else's lack of effort.

What's wrong with Martha's frenzied pace, and trying to get Jesus to light a fire under Mary? The problem is that it misses the heart of discipleship, in which we do not first and foremost serve Jesus. To miss the true heart of discipleship is to miss the mission of Jesus. Martha's intentions were good, and ours may be as well, but we need a better way of being a disciple. Mary's better way is rooted in sitting at the Lord's feet, listening to his teaching. This Jesus calls "the better part, which will not be taken away."

In this I believe we are given a picture of the core of what being a disciple of Jesus is all about. It is not about us busying ourselves to ensure his approval, but it is about *receiving* his words. This is a vital place at the feet of Jesus, and hearing his word has great effects. It works powerfully to save and bears fruit in our lives. This powerful message about *and* from Jesus is the touchstone of our discipleship because from it *and* by it the Holy Spirit gives us all that we need as disciples.

Ultimately, I think Martha got it. Just like Nicodemus, Peter, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and you and me, Jesus needed to clarify that discipleship with this Rabbi was going to be very different from our natural understanding. Martha would go on to keep serving. It was her gift, but now it was from a place of rest, from trusting and receiving from the Lord himself and all of his grace. He continually cared for her and supplied every bit of the love and mercy that she needed. He did this for her, and continues to do this for us, because as he said, "I am among you as one who serves."

~Nick Davis, corechristianity.com

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Colossians 1:15-28—The Supremacy of Christ*

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.



¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints.

²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil and strive with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 10:38-42—Jesus Visits Martha and Mary*

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But 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." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴²but few things are needed, indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."



Sermon: "*Knowing the Difference*"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Stewardship

[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]

Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Gracious God, we give today in thankfulness, knowing that what we give contributes to the continuing growth of your kingdom in the world. Give us wisdom as a church, so that this offering is used to share your word and serve your people. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory Solo: "*Simple Song*" (from "*Mass*")—L. Bernstein
Kristi Reed, soprano

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us—not into temptation—but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **Hymn No. 339:** "*Be Thou My Vision*"

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Charge

Benediction

Postlude: "*Prelude and Fugue in F Major*"—J. S. Bach

LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*
Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*
Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*
Ann Regan, *Lay Worship Leader*

