

WHOM ARE YOU REALLY SERVING?

By Jon Bloom
desiringgod.org

When Martha welcomed Jesus and his contingent into her home in Bethany (Luke 10:38–42) there could have been a hundred or more people. The seventy-two had just rejoined Jesus after their itinerant ministry tours. And considering his fame at this point, no doubt his visit attracted a number of locals.

And when the group had packed inside, Jesus taught them. But Martha wasn't one of "them" because she was too busy to listen. Luke describes her as "distracted with much serving" (Luke 10:40).

Now, removed from the situation it's tempting to be condescending. Oh for goodness' sake, Martha! Jesus is in your house and you're too busy to listen to him?

What About You?

But put yourself in Martha's place for a moment. How distracted would you be if a hundred people crowded in to your home? Add to this your high cultural value of Near-Eastern hospitality with its keen fear of dishonoring guests, especially important ones. Then remember that it's Jesus in your home. He's the Messiah, the most important person in your nation's history, and, in fact, human history.

Would you be distracted by how your place looked or how you would feed this crowd or how many trips must be made to the well (no pre-packaged food or running water to help)?

It seems to me that Martha isn't the strange person in this story. Mary is. What's remarkable is that

Mary wasn't distracted. She ignored the insistent to-do lists so she could listen to Jesus.

And this irritated Martha. She was working like crazy while Mary just sat there. Martha considered this either laziness or negligence. Exasperated, she finally appealed to Jesus: "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me" (Luke 10:40).

How Jesus Called It

Now, Jesus loves to commend diligent servants:

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. (Matthew 24:45–46)

But in this case Jesus didn't commend Martha. He reproved her:

Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her. (Luke 10:41–42)

To just about everyone else present, Martha's serving probably appeared to flow from a gracious servant heart. But Jesus discerned differently. He saw that Martha was serving out of anxiety, not grace.

Subtle and Deceptive

What was making Martha anxious? We know she was anxious about "many things." But we need only examine our own similar anxieties to guess the likely root. I think Martha was anxious over how she pleased or impressed Jesus and her guests. She was troubled at the thought that her home and serving might reflect poorly on her and her family. And this anxiety blinded her to the "one thing necessary" — listening to Jesus — and made many unnecessary tasks feel compulsively urgent.

This kind of anxiety is very subtle. It has a selfish root but its fruit looks deceptively like unselfishness. It's the desire for approval dressed up to look like the desire to serve. It's my caring what you think of me dressed up to look like my caring for you. It can be so subtle that we don't see it clearly. It looks so much like the right thing that we believe it is the right thing. That's why Martha was confident that Jesus would agree with her about Mary.

But Mary had chosen the "one thing necessary," the "good portion." At that moment, Mary was more enthralled with Jesus than with Mary. She cared more about what Jesus said than what others thought of her or her home. And because of this Jesus commended her choice not to serve.

Stop, Rest, Listen

Jesus' gentle rebuke of Martha was an act of love — to her and to us. We are all Marthas at times. And through this correction Jesus is asking us: whom are we serving in our serving? No one's motives are ever completely pure. But when we feel compelled to "serve" out of a self-conscious anxiety over what others think, it's likely we are serving our own glory and not Jesus' glory.

And Jesus seeks to free us from this slavery by inviting us to stop working, rest at his feet, and listen to him.

ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
55355 Mound Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316
stthomaspres.com Summer Hours Mon -Thurs 9-3 586-781-3025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

JULY 21, 2019

SUMMER SERVICE
10 AM

INTERIM PASTOR
REV. DR. JUDI MCMILLAN



Welcome Visitors!

We are so happy you have joined us for worship this morning!

Please stop by our Welcome Center for a free gift, located at the front entrance.

Please join us for coffee and cookies after the service.



Hearing Assistance
Receivers Available
See an Usher for help.

WiFi: STCPCguest
Password: stthomas



Children and Worship

Children of all ages are welcome in worship!

Also, there is **child care** available all morning for infants & toddlers in our nursery, which is staffed by two people each week. Ask an usher for directions.

Children's Chapel, an age-appropriate worship for children ages 3 through 2nd grade, begins right after the Children's Sermon. The children will be led by their teacher to the class from worship.

Worship Bags are located outside the Sanctuary.

Children of all ages may take a bag, add books, coloring books, crayons, and any other items from the table into worship. Please return the items and bag to the table after the service. Thank you!!

Welcome to Worship

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Welcome

Bringing in the Light and the Word

*Call to Worship

Leader: Let us Sit at Christ's feet,
like his servant Mary,

**People: And learn from the teachings
of our Lord.**

Leader: Let us serve Christ with eagerness,
like his servant Martha,

People: And share God's hospitality with all in need.

Leader: Let us bear God's good news, like the profit Amos,

People: And worship God with thanksgiving.



*Opening Song

"How Firm A Foundation"

#463

*Opening Prayer

(Unison)

**We come to you God as those who seek to be deeply rooted in your care.
Help us worship with compassionate hearts, open minds, and thoughtful cares.
As Martha offers hospitality to the stranger; as Mary listens carefully to your word,
may we learn from our sisters to be your hands and heart in the world. Amen.**

(adapted from revgalblogpals website)

*Passing of the Peace — *"Peace be with you." "And also with you."*

Ritual of Friendship

(At this time, the ushers will pass out our *"Worshiping Friendship"* pads.

Please take a moment to sign your name, and if you are new to St. Thomas, fill out your name
and contact information so that we may acknowledge your visit.

If you see someone you don't know, take a moment to introduce yourself after the service.)

We Proclaim God's Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 52
Luke 10:38-42

Pew Bibles O.T., pg. 531
Pew Bibles N.T., pg. 72

Congregational Invitation *"Where Children Belong"*

***This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.***

Children's Message

(Children, ages 3 – 1st grade, may be excused for Children's Chapel.)

Sermon

"Surprise! Jesus Is Coming To Supper"

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

Response Song

"Always Enough"

see screen

We Respond to God's Word

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#606

*Prayer of Dedication

We offer our gifts in gratitude, Holy One, for all your blessings in our lives.

***Use them to touch the lives of all who stand on the edge of hope, of peace, of community
that they might step into these promises of yours with confidence. In Jesus' name. Amen.***

We Go in God's Name

Introduction of Children's Chapel Coordinator

*Sending Song

"Lord Speak To Me That I May Speak"

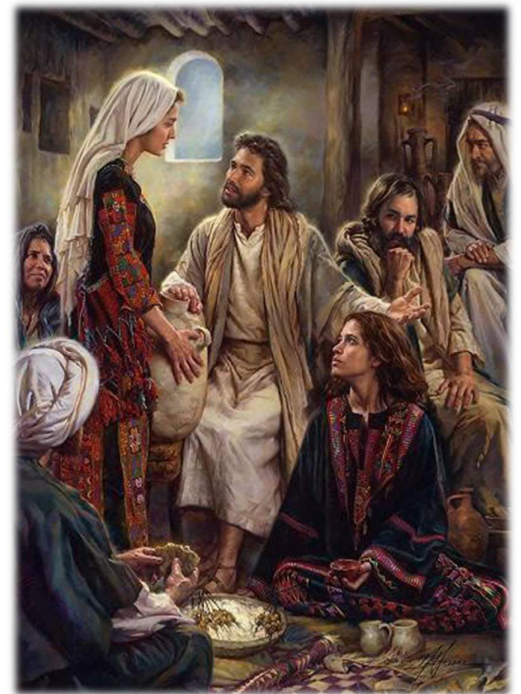
#722

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Individual Prayers

A Stephen Minister will be at the communion table after the service for anyone desiring special prayers today.





Open to People and Pets of All Faiths

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP
July 28 at 10 am**

**~Blessing of the Animals~
And Next OPEN DOOR Worship**

We continue our fun adventure for all ages this summer
July 28~ **WEAR YELLOW!** Ask...Seek...Knock!

Join us under the tent —folding chairs will
be set up, but feel free to bring your own lawn chairs,
or blankets! (weather permitting)

**Bring your pet or a picture of your pet
for a special blessing during the service.**

If you would like, bring in pet food or supplies that Sunday
to be delivered to local shelters that week.

See list of needed items on OPEN DOOR Guide.

**OPEN Door Sundays continues every
2nd & 4th Sunday during Worship in July & August,
with an ending celebration on Sept. 8.**

Email Callie with questions callie.j.sadler@gmail.com

Calling all Youth & Young Adults

Detroit Zoo Trip ~ Thursday, August 1

Leave St. Thomas at 10 am; Return to St. Thomas at 3 pm

Youth — \$15 at zoo Adults — \$18 at zoo

Save \$4 if you preorder your ticket online

RSVP to Rachel so she has transportation set, or let her
know if you are meeting the group there.

THANK YOU

To everyone who brought treats for our local fire and
police personnel last Sunday! All treats were delivered
on Sunday by Sheryl Payne, David Daugherty, Wendy
& Paige Coleman, the Graper family, Kathi Drabik,
Scott, Luka & Michelle Brewer, Chuck & Callie Sadler,
Jill Hicks, and Mary Tobey.

The men and women greatly appreciated the treats!

PRAYERS FOR...

Immediate Prayers for:

Denny Davis
The Lewis Family



Ongoing Prayers for:

Richard Dunlap Tom Richardson

Homebound/Assisted Living/ Rehab:

Betty Brush, Doug Monroe, Dick Morgan, Janet Hicks,
Dolores Dorrrough, Irene Jackson, John Timmermans

Our Missionaries & Mission Partners:

Matthew 28 in Haiti, Samaritan House; Alabaster Gift;
Good Shepherd Coalition; MCREST; Sheryl & Ed Gudaman;
Friends of Foster Kids; 2nd Mile Center; Colina de Luz Mexico

~Prayers for those serving our Nation

~Prayers for Park United Presbyterian
our sister church in Highland Park

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 21 Sam Caldwell | 25 Lynda MacIntosh |
| Wayne MacDonald | 26 Arabella MacIntosh |
| Shannon Wolanchuk | Breanna MacIntosh |
| 23 Diane Stimpson | Zoey MacIntosh |
| 24 Bill Chambers | |

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 20 Diane & Gary Fusciardi |
| 22 Matt & Rachel Sullivan |
| 23 Brian & Katie Weicker |



Dear Friends,

**Thank you for your generous gift of \$480 from your Pentecost
Offering.** Every day girls and young women are dreaming about
their futures. Your gift to **Alternatives For Girls** helps turn their
dreams into a reality.

With your support, girls and young women in Detroit who are at risk
today of homelessness, sex trafficking, gang involvement, and
school dropout, will have the support they need to achieve goals
that may currently feel impossible. Together, we are taking action
in support of their success!

Thank you for investing in their journey.

Sincerely, Alexandria - Annual Fund Manager

On-line or Text Giving

For On-line Giving,

Go to:

www.stthomaspres.com
and click the "Give Now" box

For Text Giving,

Text \$ amount to donate to
5862001555

TREASURER'S REPORT

Offerings from July 14

Budget Revenue: \$ 6,976

Budget 2019 \$ 7,792

Finance Update ~ June 30, 2019

Pledge Giving + Other Income = **YTD Income**
\$ 172,750 \$ 26,215 \$ 198,965

YTD Expenses
\$ 173,996

NET \$ 24,969

Prepaid Pledge Balance~ \$ 36,630

LOOKING AHEAD...

"...love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." ~I John 3:18

Thursday, July 25

Knitting Group—1 pm
Come help (or learn
how) to knit chemo
caps for donation

Sunday, July 28

OPEN DOOR OPEN DOOR
WORSHIP
at 10 am

Wear your Yellow

Sunday, August 4

Mission Sunday
Worship at 10 am
Come hear from our
Colina Mission Team

Sunday, August 11

OPEN DOOR OPEN DOOR
WORSHIP
at 10 am

Wear your Green

Wednesday, Aug. 21

Women's
Summer Circle
Meet at St. Thomas
at 6:45 pm