******Sunday 17th July 2022 ‘At Home’ Worship**

**Seize the Moment!**

(Sourced from Roots worship resources)

**Call to worship**

Listen to the words of Jesus Christ!
Seize the moment with both hands!
Let us come together to listen and to learn,
as we seek to be his servants.

**A gathering prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you,
burdened by our insecurities and responsibilities.
Sometimes we are not valued for what we are,
but for what other people want to make us.
But we know you love us for what and who we are,
and this sets us free to be our fullest selves,
disciples, following your way, and learning from you.
May we listen and learn together today.
**Amen.**

**First impressions**



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For artist's details, see [this issue's illustrators.](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2022/120-july-august-2022-c/issue-120-illustrators)

**Questions for the image**

* When time is short, what is important to you?
* Are you more of a doing or being person?
* How do you make time for Jesus?

**Song : Dear Lord and Father of Mankind** [Dear Lord and Father of Mankind - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0)

John G Whittier

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev’rence, praise.
2. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!
3. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.
4. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small Voice of calm.
5. In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

**Saying Sorry to God**

Blessed, Holy God, your Word has been spoken,
your voice heard, your desire known.
You speak to our every moment,
our every breath, our every deed, and yet…
so often even if we hear, we do not listen…
and, even when we do listen, we do not always follow.
Blessed, Holy God, forgive us for being inattentive,
deaf to your word and your ways.
Forgive us, Holy God.
**Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

The God of creation,
the God of Word and deed,
the God of all that has been and all that will be,
calls us to confess and assure us that our sins,
our failings, our falterings, our stammerings are forgiven.
If we listen, we will hear God’s promise:
‘My child, your sins are forgiven, go in peace, go in love.’
**Amen.**

**Prayer for the Day**

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Bible passage**



**Luke 10.38-42 New International Version**

### At the Home of Martha and Mary

**38**As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39**She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. **40**But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

**41**“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, **42**but few things are needed—or indeed only one.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%C2%A010%3A38-42&version=NIV.#fen-NIV-25406a)] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

## Reflection

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**Thought for the Day taken from the Roots publication**

**Children may like to do the activity sheet**

Are you good at seizing the moment? It requires a mixture of discernment and decisiveness. We’re not going to fall into committed discipleship by chance. It would have been so easy for Mary to do what she always did when visitors arrived. If Martha cooked, probably she laid the table. That’s how it generally works, isn’t it? Or perhaps Mary arranged the flowers. She may have known that Martha would be cross if she didn’t supply her usual help with the bits Martha found difficult or a nuisance. She needed courage. And it looks as if she had good concentration as well. She sat at Jesus feet ‘and listened’. She wasn’t shirking, pretending to want to learn or pretending to give Jesus the respectful attention due to an honoured guest. She wasn’t playing for effect either, looking over her shoulder to test the reaction she was getting. She was single-minded.

Do you admire her, or find her a bit unattractive? Single-minded people can be a bit off-putting, or a bit irritating! Have you ever had a friend who was impossible to lure out for a drink, or to a film, because he or she was working for an exam, or needing to get on with the end-of-year figures – or something like that? Maybe when it comes to finding the opportunities to ‘listen for God’ we all need to be a bit less concerned about how other people see us. Maybe, sometimes, we need to be irritating! Not ‘just because’, but because we’ve thought about it, and we’re confident that we’ve seized an opportunity too important to let pass by.

We know our government is in flux with resignations and selection of a new Prime Minister, but in amongst it all, over 700 MPs and church leaders seized an opportunity to pray in the [National Prayer Breakfast](https://cte.org.uk/nppb2022-mikeroyal/). They met in the Houses of Parliament ‘to pray for our Parliament, government and politics, to build relationships between church leaders and their local MPs, and to reflect upon the relevance of the Christian faith to our public life.’ This year’s preacher was the founder of [Street Pastors](https://www.streetpastors.org/), Rev.**Les Isaac OBE. – an inspiring speaker.  ‘**It’s important that we understand that the God who loves us, he’s willing to give us hope and to use us to bring hope.’ Street Pastors bring hope; caring for, helping and listening to folk out between 10pm ­– 4am, equipped with water, flip flops and prayer!

How do we become people of love? In the passage, Mary chooses to seize the opportunity to listen to Jesus and put on hold the ‘doing’ she might have planned. She chose the best thing; to listen to God and know God’s heart. **Our doing for others is important, but to do it with the compassion of God is to take time to pray and listen. When God calls us to action, are we taking time to listen? Rev Isaac has said that to be called to do something and bring in his kingdom, that is the Gospel.**

When we choose to help others, let’s listen to seek what God is thinking and doing there. When we have the instinct to be like Martha, try to be like Mary first.

In what activities do you most need to pause and pray first?

Seize the moment to **Listen. Learn and Love**.

## **Song**:**** Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy one, is here

## ["Be still for the presence of the Lord" with Lyrics - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vep_Ty4Zx1o)

## Be still for the presence of the LordThe Holy one is hereCome bow before him nowIn reverence and fearIn Him no sin is foundWe stand on Holy groundBe still for the presence of the LordThe Holy one is here.Be still for the glory of the LordIs shining all aroundHe burns with Holy fireWith splendour He is crownedHow awesome is the sightOur radiant King of lightBe still for the glory of the LordIs shining all around.Be still for the power of the LordIs moving in this placeHe comes to cleanse and healTo minister His graceNo work too hard for HimIn faith receive from HimBe still for the power of the LordIs moving in this place.

## ****We pray for others****

## We pray, dear God,for places where there is division and for countries in the gripof civil war...may your Holy Spirit bring peace;for countries where there is religious persecution…may your Holy Spirit bring unity;for towns and cities where gang warfare brings fear…may your Holy Spirit bring hope;for communities where there is inequality…may your Holy Spirit bring dignity;for workplaces where there is insecurity…may your Holy Spirit bring confidence;for homes where there is brokenness…may your Holy Spirit bring healing;for churches where there is dilemma…may your holy Spirit bring life:to your glory.****Amen.****

## **Song: I the lord of sea and sky** [I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord - 3vv+refrain) [with lyrics for congregations] - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zr9SMm1glI)

## I, the Lord of sea and sky,I have heard My people cry.All who dwell in dark and sin,My hand will save.I who made the stars of night,I will make their darkness bright.Who will bear My light to them?Whom shall I send?Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?I have heard You calling in the night.I will go Lord, if You lead me.I will hold Your people in my heartI, the Lord of snow and rain,I have born my peoples pain.I have wept for love of them, They turn away.I will break their hearts of stone,Give them hearts for love alone.I will speak My word to them,Whom shall I send?Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?I have heard You calling in the night.I will go Lord, if You lead me.I will hold Your people in my heart.I, the Lord of wind and flame,I will tend the poor and lame.I will set a feast for them,My hand will saveFinest bread I will provide,Till their hearts be satisfied.I will give My life to them,Whom shall I send?Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?I have heard You calling in the night.I will go Lord, if You lead me.I will hold Your people in my heart

## A sending out prayer

Lord, send us out into the world,
alert to whatever nudges us to hear you calling,
or whatever points us in your way.
Make us bold to resist those who would keep us
in the comfortable well-trodden paths,
so that – like Mary – we can break free from time to time,
to sit at your feet.
**Amen.**
**Amen.**

 

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