

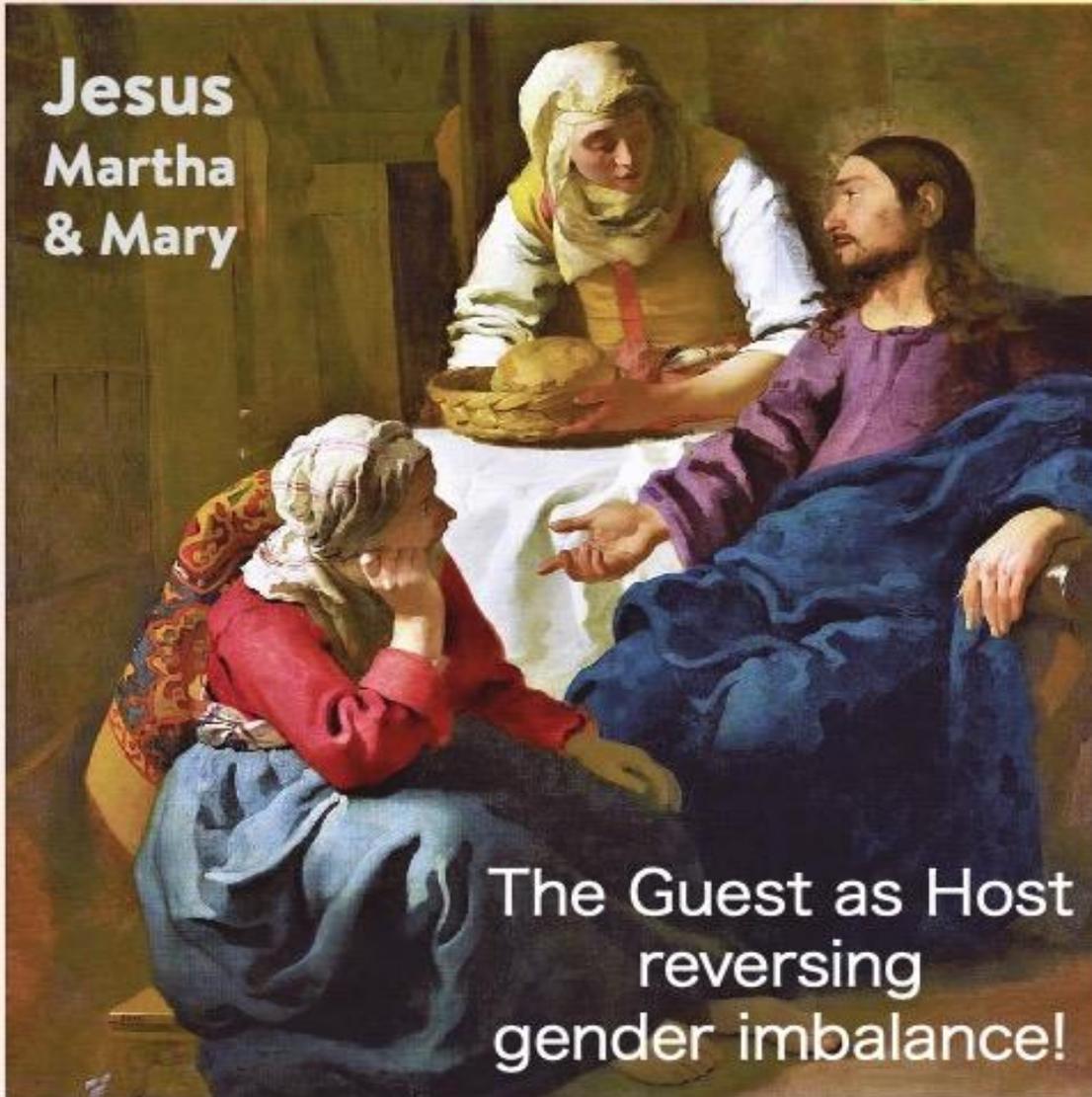


**uniting
church**
in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT

**Leigh Memorial
Uniting Church**

PENTECOST 6

**Jesus
Martha
& Mary**



**The Guest as Host
reversing
gender imbalance!**

Jesus means freedom

17 July 2022

Leigh Memorial

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather on this Sixth Sunday of Pentecost.

THEME

“Martha and Mary represent two groups in the debate on gender roles. Martha represents a woman in a particular society, who try to preserve culture, a conformist to hierarchical gendered roles. Mary on the other hand revolts and charts a new course for her life. She stands for equality of men and women in salvation, as well as opportunity to hold every office and play every role that exists in church life.”

(Source: Yele Marceline Lambiv, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon.)

LIGHTING OF THE PENTECOST CANDLE

Today we light this candle proclaiming all gender expressions are equal to share in the all the tasks of God’s mission!

We light this candle proclaiming the transforming power of the love of God. God is at work in us, with us, and in the world for justice and peace, compassion and love, and life abundant.

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

OPENING SENTENCES

You O God are the love
of every living creature
You are the warmth
of the rising sun
You are the whiteness
of the moon at night

You are the life
of the growing earth
You are the strength
of the waves of the sea.

***Speak to us this day O God
Feed us with the bread of truth
Dwell with us as we live each day
Feed us with love that nourishes love!***

(Adaped: J. Philip Newell, Celtic Prayers from Iona)

HYMN

Here in this place (Gather us in) (TiS 474)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar0BXa82F9M>

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

*Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,
gather us in - the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

2. We are the young - our lives are a mystery,
we are the old - who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

*Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,
gather us in - the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.*

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,

not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
*Gather us in - and hold us forever,
gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

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A CALL TO RADICAL FREEDOM

“MARTHA needed deep, systemic change [of patriarchy] in order to live into the permission Jesus tried to offer her. SHE couldn’t embrace such radical freedom by herself — she needed the folks with power to embrace it with her and for her”

Debie Thomas.

O Host of hospitality and transformation,
We ask and pray,
 What would it be like
 for us contemporary Christians
 to examine the systems and structures
 that still bind people like Martha today?
Our guest and host, Jesus Christ,
Hear our prayer.

O Christ who is our Host,
 What would it cost us
 to dismantle those systems?
 What would it look like
 to create concrete opportunities
 for today’s Martha’s to rest?
Our guest and host, Jesus Christ,
Hear our prayer.

What would it look like
 To sit freely at Jesus’s feet?

To find support, community,
and empowerment as they struggle to become disciples?
And to give equal place to the Mary's and Martha' as
disciples?

Our guest and host, Jesus Christ,

Hear our prayer.

What would it look like

to stand in solidarity with your nearest Martha
as she unlearns a lifetime's worth of messaging
about what makes her soul
lovable, valuable, honorable, and holy?

Our guest and host, Jesus Christ,

Hear our prayer.

(Source: Debie Thomas, Journey with Jesus)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God in Christ Jesus is a God of everlasting hope.
When we turn and open ourselves to new life,
To the invitation to transform our hospitality and structures,
there is grace waiting for us
and the gift of a new day before us.

***Thanks be to God,
we are forgiven! Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 10:38-42 (Inclusive Text)

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at Jesus' feet and listened to him speaking.

Now Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, said: 'Do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.'

But Jesus answered, 'Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. 'It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

RESPONSE

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.*

And colour our living. Amen!

VIDEO **My Fair Lady**

How to learn English pronunciation with Eliza Doolittle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKxd30IQ1f0>



REFLECTION *Jesus as Guest and Host reversing gender imbalance*

HYMN **A New Commandment** (TiS, 699)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqM2UjI7Aas>

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all know that you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another;
by this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another

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OFFERING Receive all that we bring, loving God, and enlarge these
gifts and our lives in the power of your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ALL PLACES & PEOPLE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rot5M9Kirhc&t=196s>

We pray for the lonely ones
knowing that some of us are lonely
and we pray for the heartbroken ones
knowing that some of us are heartbroken
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world
We pray for the wounded
knowing that some of us are wounded
and we pray for the regretful ones
knowing that some of us are regretful
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the healing
We pray for the starving ones
knowing that some of us are starving
and we pray for the imprisoned ones
knowing that some of us are imprisoned
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of justice in the world
We pray for the dying ones
knowing that some of us are dying
and we pray for the newly born ones
knowing that some of us are arriving
All our hearts and minds are leaning in with clear intention
joining in your way of love in the world.

Amen.

Christopher Grundy (c) 2013 Hand and Soil Music

HYMN *For you (Deep stillness)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpRWWnZa6Ro>

For you deep stillness of the silent inland
for you deep blue of the desert skies
for you flame red of the rocks and stones

for you sweet water
from hidden springs

From the edges seek the heartlands
and when you're burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you
in the name of Christ
in the name of Christ.

in the name of Christ.

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BLESSING

May we go into life
With the hospitality and freedom of Martha and Mary
May we go this day,
Transformed into wholeness
where ever we are separated
in family, gender, race, community and society,
Valued and named as equal daughters and sons.

Being filled with inner hope
and unquenchable desire for total well-being,

May the God of compassion, healing and relationship,
travel with us on our every journey, **Amen.**