



The Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit

Sunday 20th July 2025: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme for today is "Making time for Jesus"

Prepared by Mrs Avril Temple

Opening Words

Eternal God, we come seeking to offer our worship and to bring our thanks and praise.
We come to acknowledge your greatness and to declare your steadfast love.

Hymn: STF 59 Lord, the light of your love in shining <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rce9UHYZwI4>

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us-
shine on me, shine on me:

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter the brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness-
shine on me, shine on me:

Shine Jesus Shine...

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story-
shine on me, shine on me:

Shine Jesus shine...

© 1987 Make Way Music
Graham Kendrick

Opening Prayers: Let us pray together

Great and wonderful God, you have blessed us with so much; raining your love and gifts upon us, more than we can number. We offer our thanks with grateful hearts. We come to you to read, think and learn. You are our Creator, Father and friend. Receive our thanks, praise and worship. Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Hymn StF 333 Majesty, worship his majesty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNnTFDNPT3U>

Majesty, worship His Majesty:
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne unto His own,
His anthems raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all Kings.

Today's Readings: Psalm 52 Luke 10: 38-42

Reflection:

Martha and Mary, a reading that we have known most of our lives, but if we look deeper there is much more to it than a domestic quarrel.

I've always thought of Martha as a homely person who wanted to take care and provide for others, a bit of a perfectionist. She wanted everything to be just so, especially as Jesus was there.

Mary perhaps a more thoughtful person, wanting to know more about Jesus' teaching.

You can imagine the scene, pots and pans boiling in the kitchen, Martha getting crosser and crosser, she could really do with some help. Where was Mary? What was she doing just sitting at Jesus' feet, listening? At last, she could take no more and she said to Jesus don't you care that she has left me to do everything. Jesus' reply was not at all what she expected. He said Martha you are worried about many things but only one thing matters and Mary has chosen it and it will not be taken away from her. It's almost as if he is criticising Martha and this is where we need to stop and think.



In that culture, as in many parts of the world still even today, houses were divided into male spaces and female spaces. Male roles and female roles were strictly defined. Mary had crossed that invisible boundary with the house and in their social world. The public room was where the men would meet. The kitchen and their quarters were where you found the women, unseen for the most part.

For a woman to settle herself down among the men was almost scandalous. In the same way sitting at the feet of a teacher was a male role, but Mary had made this her place.

Jesus cares for Martha and Mary equally and that care was based on God's overflowing love for all humankind.

Perhaps we become overwhelmed by our everyday cares, concerns and worries. Have we not taken enough time to sit at Jesus' feet, to be still and listen. Really listen, with ears, mind and heart.

This is more than a story about different ways of Christian living, it's about the call of Jesus to everyone to listen to his words.

As his personal journey continues on to Jerusalem, he leaves behind villages, towns and individual people who have seen a glimpse of the Kingdom. For them life will never be the same again. As we continue our journey may God grant that it is the same for us.

Hymn StF 341 All for Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2M1f_34veo

All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this our song shall ever be;
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,
if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus, thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
none can move us from thy presence
while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus, thou hast loved us;
all for Jesus, thou hast died;
all for Jesus, thou art with us;
all for Jesus crucified.

All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this the church's song must be,
till, at last, we all are gathered,
one in love and one in thee.

A time of prayer

Eternal God, we come to you now with our thought and prayers for others. We live in a world fractured and broken by wars, hatred, injustice and intolerance. We bring to you all those who have suffered for any of these reasons. Families torn apart, homes destroyed, communities and all their facilities turned to rubble.

We pray for peace, for wisdom, understanding and compassion for leaders of all countries.

Loving God, we pray for the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the refugees and homeless and all who are oppressed. In a few quiet moments we bring to God the people and situations that are on our minds.

Living God thank you for all those who make donations and go with their skills to help in difficult situations over the world. Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father ...*

Hymn: StF 489 All I once held dear <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Merf00qcQik>

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

*Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord*

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You...

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Knowing You, Jesus, Knowing You...

A prayer of blessing:

Day by day O God, may you speak to us, may your spirit grow in us, work through us, shine from us and dwell within us always. Amen.