

MARTHA AND MARY

MARTHA: Mary laughs while I am weeping,
Mary sings while I am sweeping.
Always Mary has friends around
who leave their mud behind.
Mary smiles when I would worry
Mary walks where I would hurry
While I'm fussing to make ends meet
Mary can't see why.

MARY: Martha you seem strange to me
You always work so hard;
Life is God's and life is good
But life you never see.
Martha you are good to me
Yes Martha, but I can't, you see,
Be like you, I can only be like me.

MARTHA: Mary keeps a bed of flowers
While I clean and cook for hours;
Evenings Mary walks on the hills -
She likes that time of day.

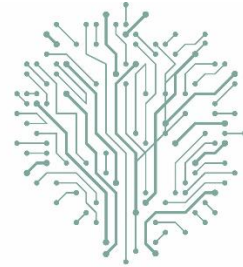
Mary likes to talk to strangers
Mary does not think of dangers;
Mary loves everything that moves
and sees no cause for fear.
Mary keeps a bed of flowers
While I clean and cook for hours;
While I'm working my hands to bone
Mary can't see why.

MARY: Martha, while you worry so,
Watch my flowers grow;
All they need is some sweet rain
and God is like the rain.
Martha, there you go again -
Your worries do not help at all.
Martha, the rain knows when to fall.

MARTHA: Mary sees something I don't.
Mary knows something I won't.
While I'm scolding her Mary smiles
And gently combs my hair.

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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 10:38-42.
Pentecost 6: The Better Part

For Saltbush Communion go to:
<https://vimeo.com/582800387>

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others

Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Ever-present God, may your Spirit of welcome flow through our midst as we gather in your name.
Open our hearts and minds that we might be attuned to your loving-kindness and shaped by your abundant grace.
Teach us your ways that we might live for you alone.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Song

[Mary and Martha](https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/78-martha-and-mary) by Peter Kearney
<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/78-martha-and-mary>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.
You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

The Word around the Bush

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord'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; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- What distracts you from entering into times of sitting at the feet of Jesus?
- In what ways would you and your Christian community find new ways of being present before God?

Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Don't worry too much if your mind is filled with other thoughts, allow them to drift away like a feather on the wind.

Prayers for Others

Gracious God, trusting in your eternal welcome we lift our voices in prayer for your church, those in need and all creation. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people in need: the ill, the homeless, the bereaved, the lonely, the desperate. Move us to act with compassion as we keep focus on your son, Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all creation, for places affected by climate change, for the just use of resources, for the care and treatment of all creatures. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

In all things O God, give us hearts filled with the compassion that comes from knowing we are loved by you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Music for Reflection:

[Come, come, come](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/album/a-pocketful-of-smooth-stones) by Malcolm Gordon
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/album/a-pocketful-of-smooth-stones>

Closing Responses & Blessing

We have been welcomed by God,
Let us go out into the world and offer this welcome to all we meet.

May the steadfast love of God enfold you, the compassion of Christ embrace you, and the Spirit of welcome be with you always. Amen. *

(*prayers from Words for Worship: MediaCom Publications)