

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

Portage Lake United Church  
Proper 11 (16)



Lectionary Year C

*Liturgical Color: Green*



# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- 2nd quarter Financial Statements are available on the table in the lounge. Pick yours up today.
- Kitchen and nursery clean up Monday, July 21 at 9:00 am
- Fellowship Guild social at the Bluffs: Thursday, July 24 at 2:00 PM
- August newsletter articles are due on Thursday, July 24.
- We are looking for folks to do coffee the next two Sundays.
- Angel Mission needs: Pasta
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



## ***Serving This Morning***

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Ardys Maki  
Greeter: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague  
Reader: Beth Smock  
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar  
Coffee: Lois Jambekar, Mary Eckhart  
Children's Church: TBD



## PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

The complex issues of life do not lend themselves to easy answers. It is not easy to know with certainty the path we are to follow. And often, after careful discernment, the direction we hear is not the way we would have chosen.

*(Rueben P. Job)*



Ann Campbell

# + Call to Worship (responsive)

In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Through Christ

God reconciled all things to Godself.

In Christ we find our beginning,  
our purpose, and our own being.

We are Christ's body, eager to serve.





555

## Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

Martin Rinkart, c. 1636

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.


Stanza 3, *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985

Johann Crüger, 1648

Harm. adapt. *Lobegesang*, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840



1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voic - es,  
2. O may this boun - teous God Through all our life be near us,  
3. All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in high - est heav - en,



Who won-drous things hath done, In whom this world re - joic - es;  
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
To Fa - ther and to Son And Spir - it now be giv - en.



Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
And keep us in God's grace, And guide us when per - plexed,  
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom heaven and earth a - dore,



With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.  
The God who was, and is, And shall be ev - er - more.

## ✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grant us this day, O God,  
not to be overtaken by anxious thoughts  
that can make us feel that you are not near.  
Give us the chance,  
to sit at your feet,  
to enjoy every word and every musical note  
that we may feel your real presence  
and in turn live out that presence  
within our families, our communities,  
our jobs, and our schools.  
Prepare us as we journey  
as your people,  
to worship and to obey.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the image of the invisible God,  
and the firstborn over all creation. Amen.





# + Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful Savior,  
you stand beside us,  
yet we prefer to stand on our own.  
You choose us,  
yet we choose worry.  
You attend to us,  
yet we attend to our work.  
Forgive us, gentle Teacher.  
Call us by name and visit us once more  
that we might find at your feet our joy, our purpose, and our hope.  
....  
Christ in you is the glory of God.  
Believe the good news.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**



# + PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**





# WORD



*The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. Amos 8:11*

# Genesis 18:1-10a

## *The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah*

18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 18:2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. 18:3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 18:4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 18:5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." 18:7 Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 18:8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 18:9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." 18:10a Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

**Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God**



## Colossians 1:15-28 (1-23 shown here)

1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 1:16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him. 1:17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 1:18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 1:20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. 1:21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 1:22 he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— 1:23 provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

## Colossians 1:15-28 (24-28 shown here)

1:24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. 1:25 I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 1:26 the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 1:28 It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.


Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**



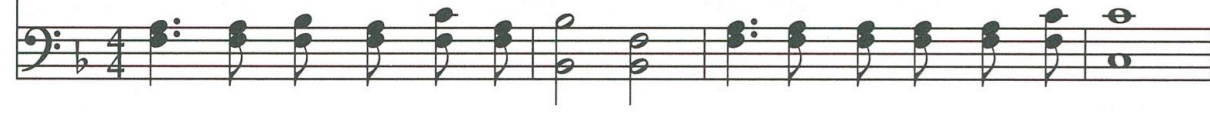
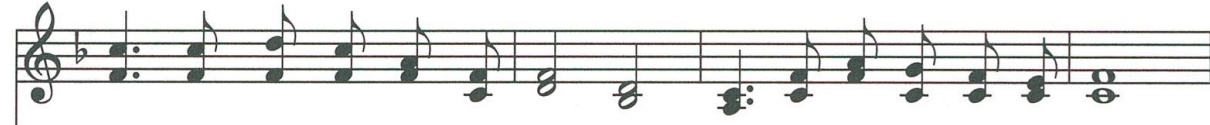
## 403 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D


Joseph Scriven, c. 1855 Charles Crozat Converse, 1868




1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: Take it to the Lord in prayer!




O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor-rows share?

All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev-ery weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!



3. Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

## + GOSPEL READING Luke 10:38-42

10:38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 10:39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 10:40 But 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." 10:41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 10:42 there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

**The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God**



# Sermon



Mary, Sister of Lazarus, Welcomes Jesus Into Her Home -- Nikolai Ge

# Offering and Prayer of Dedication

O God, receive these gifts, products of our labors,  
and let us not forget the better part of our offering,  
which is our devotion to the words of life  
we have received from Christ our Lord. Amen.





# OFFERING HYMN “There’s a Wideness In God’s Mercy” #298 BLUE

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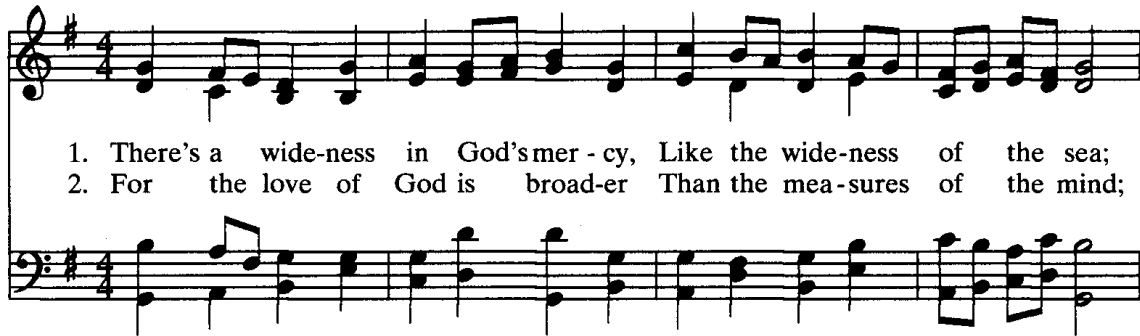
GOD

## 298 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

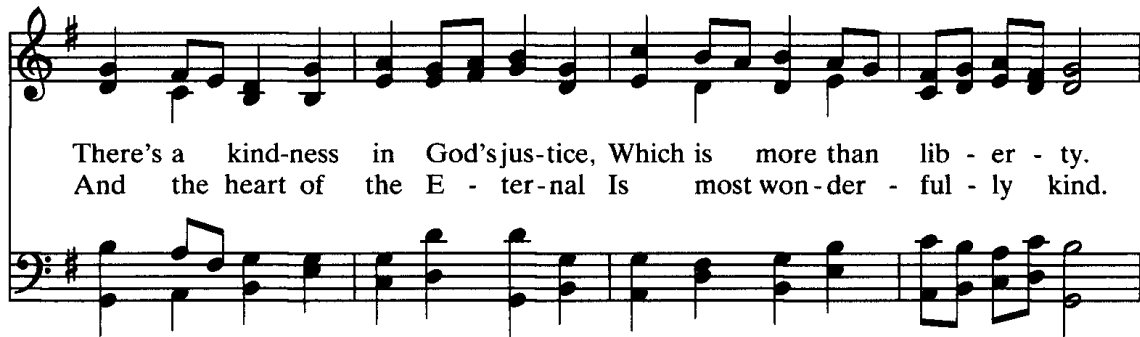
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Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

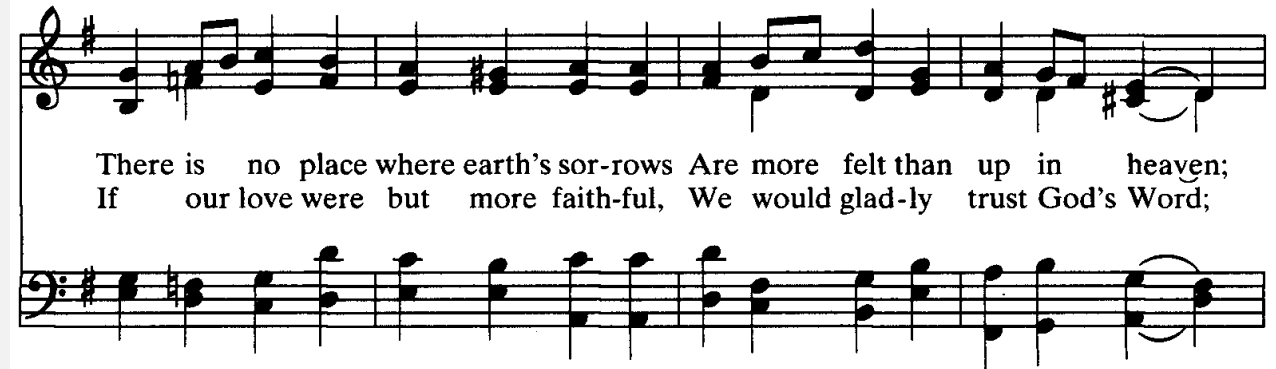
Dutch melody  
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855–1933)



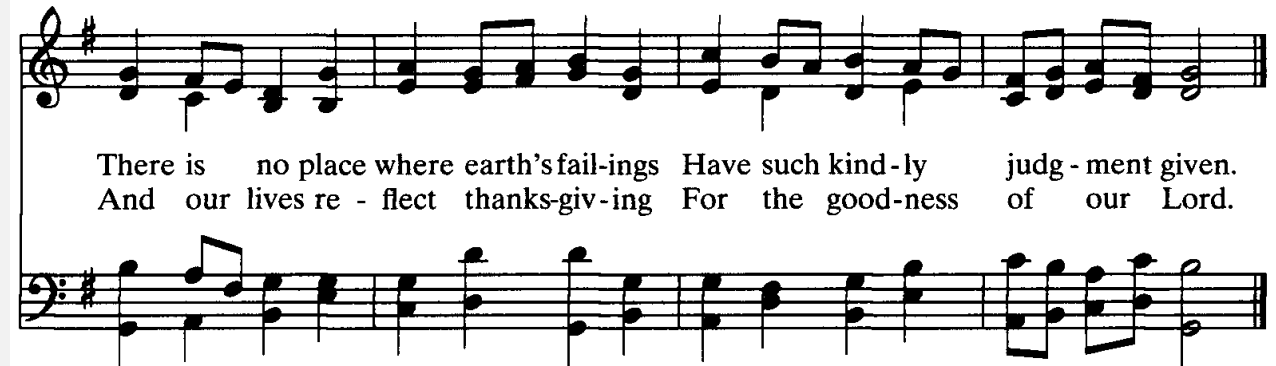
1. There's a wide-ness in God'smer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There's a kind-ness in God'sjus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.  
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;



There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.  
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.





# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



# PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

## *ECUMENICAL*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.



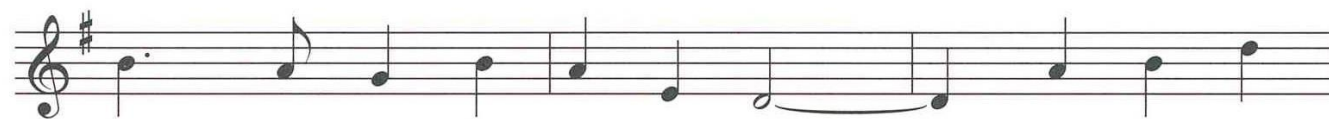
## BLESSING AND PARTING

294

## Go to the World!



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth; go preach the  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place; go live the  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray; the nights of  
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am



cross where Christ re - news life's worth, bap - tiz - ing  
word of God's re - deem - ing grace; go seek God's  
tears give way to joy - ful day. As ser - vant  
with you till the age shall end, when all the



as the sign of our re - birth.  
pres - ence in each time and space. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men."

Text: Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993)  
Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Text © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

10 10 10 with alleluia  
ENGELBERG



# SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go out into the world  
proclaiming Christ in every corner,  
admonishing and teaching with all wisdom,  
so that everyone can know  
the presence and witness of Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the blessing of God,  
whose mercy knows no ends.  
Receive the blessing of Christ,  
who is patient and eager to give us words of life.  
Receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit  
who moves us  
and gives us power to do God's will.  
Receive the blessing of the triune God,  
and share this blessing with others!





# Postlude and Reflection

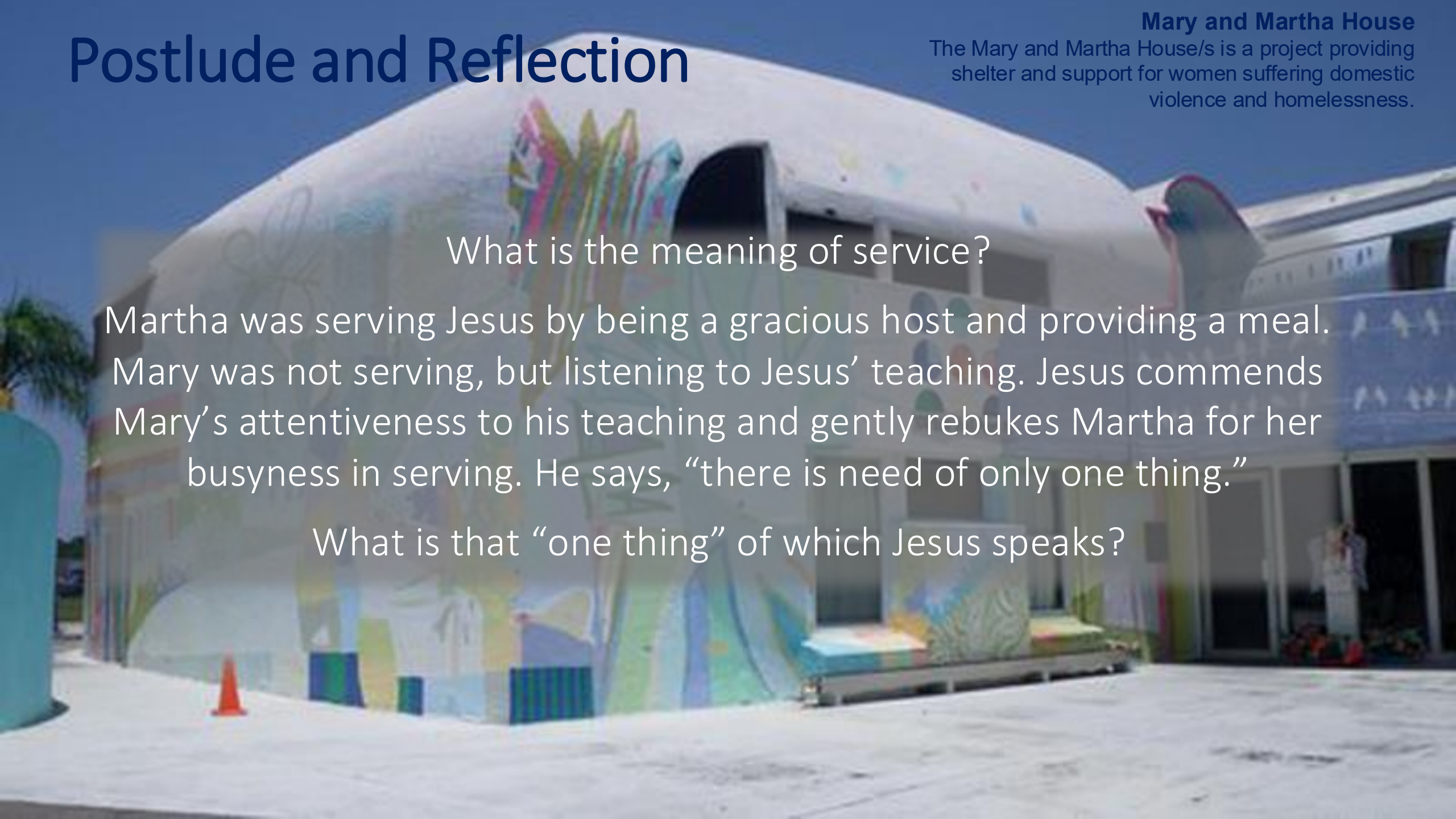
## Mary and Martha House

The Mary and Martha House/s is a project providing shelter and support for women suffering domestic violence and homelessness.

What is the meaning of service?

Martha was serving Jesus by being a gracious host and providing a meal. Mary was not serving, but listening to Jesus' teaching. Jesus commends Mary's attentiveness to his teaching and gently rebukes Martha for her busyness in serving. He says, "there is need of only one thing."

What is that "one thing" of which Jesus speaks?



## Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Ardys Maki  
Greeter: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague  
Reader: Beth Smock  
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar  
Coffee: Lois Jambekar, Mary Eckhart  
Children's Church: TBD

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**Portage Lake United Church**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

## Visio Divina

### Photos by

Ann Campbell  
Greg Campbell  
Sherry Middlemis-Brown  
Jim Northey

#### Cover

Title: Mary, Martha and Jesus Artist: Peterson, Kathleen

Works by Kathleen Peterson are available at <https://www.kathleenpetersonart.com>  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56572>

#### Word

<https://blowthetrumpet.com.au/a-famine-for-the-hearing-of-gods-word/>

#### Sermon

Title: Mary, sister of Lazarus, Greets Jesus Date: 1863

Artist: Ge, N. N. (Nikolaï Nikolaevich), 1831-1894

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56846>

#### Charge and Blessing

Mary and Martha House

Notes: The Mary and Martha House/s is a project providing shelter and support for women suffering domestic violence and homelessness. The local community of Ruskin, FL, gathered in 2014 to decorate one of the houses with brightly colored murals. Photo by Kmccook.

Date: 2014

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56211>

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