



17 JULY 2022

Welcome to worship

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy worshipping with us. A special welcome to Rev Christine Gapes, Chaplain at Western Sydney University who will be leading our service and presiding at Holy Communion this morning.

Lectionary Readings

This week July 17, 2022

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Next week July 24, 2022

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Holroyd Community Prayer Dinner

This year's Community Prayer Dinner will be on Tues 30 August at 7pm in the Swan Room at Merrylands RSL. Rev David Reithmuller, Operations Manager, Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network will be the speaker.

Tickets are \$45 per person, and RSVP details are on the back notice-board.

Mary and Martha **Luke 10:38-42**

In a culture of hectic schedules and the relentless pursuit of productivity, we are tempted to measure our worth by how busy we are, by how much we accomplish, or by how well we meet the expectations of others. We want to provide for our families, we want to serve our neighbours, and yes, we want to serve the Lord.

And yet if all our activities leave us with no time to be still in the Lord's presence and hear God's word, we are likely to end up anxious and troubled. We are likely to end up with a kind of service that is devoid of love and joy and is resentful of others.

Both listening and doing, receiving God's Word and serving others, are vital to the Christian life, just as inhaling and exhaling are to breathing. Yet how often do we forget to breathe in deeply? Trying to serve without being nourished by God's word is like expecting good fruit to grow from a tree that has been uprooted.

Luke's story is left suspended. We do not know what happened next — whether Mary and Martha were reconciled, whether they were all able to enjoy the meal that Martha had prepared, whether Martha was finally able to sit and give her full attention to Jesus.

We do know that Jesus invites all of us who are worried and distracted by many things to sit and rest in his presence, to hear his words of grace and truth, to know that we are loved and valued as children of God, to be renewed in faith and strengthened for service. There is need of only one thing: attention to our guest. As it turns out, our guest is also our host, with abundant gifts to give.

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/> Elisabeth Johnson