

DWELLING ON GOD

Luke 10:38-42 // Morning Prayer

Morning prayer focuses on Luke 10:38-42, where Jesus tells Mary and Martha it is better to dwell on the everlasting God than the temporal earth. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *Listening to God*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✪ **Come Away from Rush and Hurry** [Key of F]
Text: Marva J. Dawn © 1999
Music: BEACH SPRING by B.F. White

- ✪ **Listen to the Word Which God Has Spoken** [Key of F]
Text: Anon. Canadian, alt.
Music: Anon. Canadian; adapt. Church Hymnary, 4th ed., 2005.

- ✪ **We are Travelers on a Journey** [Key of F]
Text: Richard Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song/Maranatha! Music/ASCAP
Music: BEACH SPRING by B.F. White

- ✪ **Benediction** [Key of G]
Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou Music

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

You might consider using the drama script “**The Dinner Party**” from Proclaiming Christ Ministries [www.proclaiming-christ-ministries.org] to act out the story of Luke 10:38-42.

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

You can use images like the ones to the right (*Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* // Yale University Art Gallery and *Christ in the House of Mary and Martha* // Leonard Gaultier in the National Gallery of Art) to aid in telling the story of Mary and Martha. Consider invite worshippers to draw their own pictures of this story.



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Challenge your worshippers to continue listening to God as they go about their day.

“Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings. For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.” (Isaiah 51:7-8 ESV)

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

Much of this morning vespers service is based upon listening to God in silence and giving God room to speak into our lives. Creating a space that fosters this experience will be different for every group. Some may have a quiet and peaceful space in the morning that is outside, in nature. Others may have access to a room with windows that will let in the first rays of sunlight.

Whatever your situation, choose a space that is quiet and peaceful, giving others the opportunity to listen to God without distraction.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Below is a prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer (1979)* of the Episcopal Church in the USA. You might use this prayer, or invite your worshippers to an open period of prayer in which any may offer prayers, silent or aloud.

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Morning Prayer // Luke 10:38-42 // Dwelling on God
[Silent Gathering]

SONG OF STILLNESS

Come Away from Rush and Hurry

Words and Music: Marva J. Dawn

© 1992 Hope Publishing Company

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Luke 10:38-42

*Introduce by saying "Listen for the Word of God."
Read the passage two times. The first time, the
passage is read at a normal pace. The second
time, the passage is read much slower. Pause
between the two readings.*

LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE

10 minutes of silence is observed

SUNG PRAYER

Listen to the Word that God has Spoken

Words and Music: Anon. Canadian

Canadian Original, adapted, source unknown

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

One: Creator, your Word brought this world into being. You declared it good and called us to live as its stewards. We open our ears this day to your voice, that we might hear afresh your call to cherish our world.

ALL: **We listen, even if we don't understand.**

One: God of Moses and Isaiah and Jeremiah, your Word came to your servants, that your people might bear witness to all the world. We open our eyes this day to your vision for justice, mercy, and peace.

ALL: **We look, even if we don't understand.**

One: Compassionate One, your Word took flesh and came near to us in Jesus, proclaiming the good news of your Kingdom. We open our hearts this day to your grace, confessing our need for your forgiveness.

ALL: **We feel, even if we don't understand.**

One: Indwelling Spirit, your Word, mysterious and infinite, was delivered and entrusted to the Church, a baptized, reconciling community. We open our hands this day to your mission and ask that you use all we offer.

ALL: **We work, even if we don't understand.**

One: God of the Present, we listen, we look, we feel, we work, and we pray even if we don't understand. So now, we ask you to hear us as we voice our own prayers in this community, silently and aloud.

Pause for worshipers to offer prayers.

One: And now, we pray as your taught, saying:

ALL: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts; as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom**

**and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**

CALL TO SERVICE

We Are Travelers on a Journey

Text: Richard Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song/Maranatha!

Music/ASCAP Music: BEACH SPRING by B.F. White

BENEDICTION

One: Almighty God, bless us and
direct our days in deeds in peace.

All: **Amen.**

One: Bless the Lord.

All: **The Lord's name be praised.**

SIGN OF PEACE

The greeting of peace shared by all.