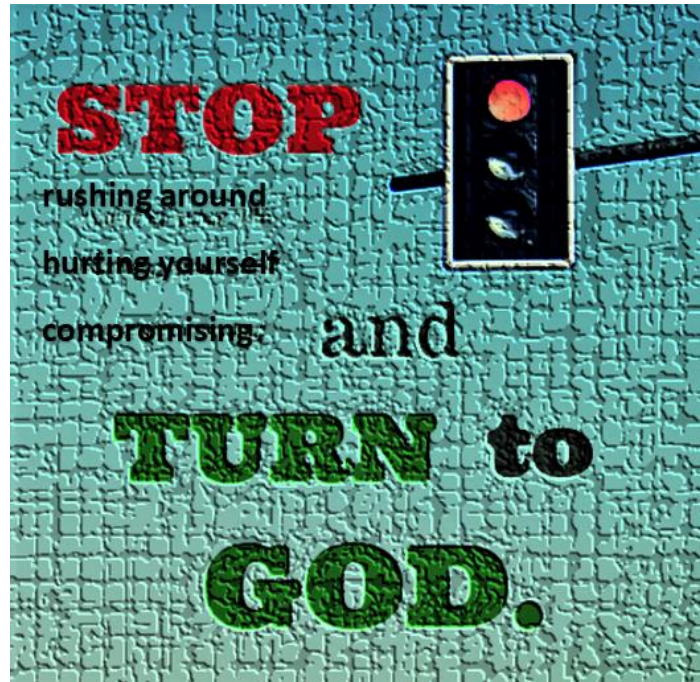


Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

28/02/2021 -- Lent 2

Stop for God



Next week is our fortnightly zoom
"Church & Chat"

A short church reflection with a hymn, reading, (children's activity), prayer, "thought for the week" and then a time to chat. If you need help to join please ask any deacon

Join us next week at 10 am:

Topic: Church and Chat

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75124173520?pwd=QVB4WUx6QXg3Y3hQc1NQYkxINmozZz09>

Meeting ID: 751 2417 3520

Passcode: Bethel2021

Friday 5th March is World Day of Prayer there is a lovely online service at:

<https://youtu.be/edQMgNFdRdo> or go to [Homepage | World Day Of Prayer \(wwdp.org.uk\)](http://Homepage | World Day Of Prayer (wwdp.org.uk))

All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Our hymn for today "In Christ Alone"

[In Christ Alone my hope is found song Lyrics - YouTube](#)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day!
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

The reading today is Luke 10:38-42

[Luke 10:38-42 NIVUK - At the home of Martha and Mary - As - Bible Gateway](#)

At the home of Martha and Mary

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'

⁴¹ 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'

Stop

Last week we started our Lent journey setting ourselves the task for the 40 days of stopping, looking and listening to God.

This week we are thinking about **stopping**, or resting. The last year has given us a great opportunity to stop and re-evaluate all that we do. During this lent let us think about what we have stopped and what we need to re-start and what we leave behind us.

We are often really busy doing, producing, accomplishing, achieving, and keeping up or getting ahead of those around us. Even in the church, we sometimes lose sight of the most important components by looking at how much we know or how much we do. The story of Martha and Mary may be a familiar one, but it is always a positive reminder of the importance of resting in God's presence.

Sometimes we think that we have to do certain things or know certain things in order to be a "just right" Christian or have God love us more. We get caught up in hurrying through life and doing the same things in church. However, there is nothing we can do to earn God's love, and there's nothing we need to do to earn His love! He already loves us, and all we have to do is accept His love and know that Jesus died for us. He did all the work, and He wants us to just be ourselves and enjoy His presence.

Our reading today about the two sisters who had Jesus over for dinner clearly demonstrates this. Martha was very busy, and she was rushing around preparing for Jesus. She was cooking and cleaning and working, and she got upset because her sister, Mary, was just hanging out with Jesus. She wasn't helping do the work but just sat listening to Jesus talk. Martha got upset and asked Jesus to tell Mary to help, but He told her Mary was the one doing the right thing. It was not as important to do things for Jesus as it was to spend time *with* Him. Jesus didn't want a dusted floor or fresh loaf of bread. He wanted people. And that is how He feels about us, too! What's important is not just what we know or say or do...it's how we love God. We can breathe and pause and rest in His presence. He is always there for us!



Look at this...what does it do? Does it sing or cook or dance in circles? No. But we can enjoy it just for what it is. That's sort of how God feels about us. He made us, and He doesn't require any special activities. He loves us just because we are His children! So remember, there's nothing wrong with doing things for God. But that is not the most important thing. We can rest in Him and know we are part of His family, no matter what else we do.

So lets take this time to stop, re-evaluate all we do and think what we re-start to enable everyone to be able to rest in God.



Today's Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for the words of the Bible and for making us part of your family.

Help us to slow down and breathe and rest in your presence

Thank you for your love, Amen!

Are you Mary or Martha?

**Give unto the LORD
the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in the
beauty of holiness.**

Psalm 29:2

**How do you put
God first?**

www.teacherspayteachers.com

