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Meeting Time
Sunday at 10:30 Worship

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcement

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

by Bruce Prewer

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:

That it is not we who chose Christ,
but Christ who chose us,
That we are not here because of our goodness
but because of Christ's grace,
That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,
but to allow Christ to enlighten us,
That we have not come to be entertained
but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

*Hymn 324

"For All the Faithful Women"

***For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.***

***They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.***

***We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;***

***For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.***

***We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.***

***We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.***

***Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.***

***O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.***

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us. But we have closed our eyes to the glory in our midst and have not truly heard your calling on our hearts. We worry about many things instead of focusing on you. Grant us willingness to trust in you rather than in the illusion of what we can create and do. Forgive our busy ways that distract us from knowing you. Help us to not be afraid to encounter your presence and through Christ to stand before you cleansed of our sin...

Time for silent reflection.

Assurance of Grace (*Responsive*)

The saying is true and worthy of full acceptance; Christ came into the world to save sinners.

***Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross,
that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.***

Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Response: ***Gloria Patri***

Special Music

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

*Hymn 451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

***Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.***

***Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!***

***Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.***

***Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.***

***Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.***

***Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!***

Prayer of Illumination (*Responsive*)

Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. ***Amen.***

First Lesson:

John 11:1-16, 17-27

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary

stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Second Lesson:

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. 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.” ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Sermon

“Discipleship Is Personal; The Better Part”

Rev. Anne McAnelly

Portions of this sermon came from Just a Sister Away by Renita Weems.

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering

Doxology

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Compassionate Father, thank you that you are our strength and our song, you fill our hearts with joy. May we give our offerings to you with gladness and joy. Everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back to you. Bless the tithes and offerings we give today. Let the majesty of the Father be the light that guides us, the compassion of the Son be the love that inspires us and the presence of the Spirit be the power that empowers us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*Hymn 730

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

***I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.***

***And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:***

***They were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.***

*They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong; and they followed the right,
for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.*

*And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:*

*And there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.*

*And there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.*

*You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;*

*For the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.*

Benediction