

Worship Ideas:

Gathering Activity

What have you done this week?

Give everyone a diary page and encourage them to think about how they have used their time this week.

How busy was your diary, was it packed, or empty? Is there a time of the week when you are rushed off your feet and a time when you are quiet?

Some people are busy in the mornings, others in the afternoon. Some have action packed evenings.

When was the last time you sat still? Completely still. No TV, books, phone or tablet. No music. Just silence. Listening... to what God might be saying to you...

Call to Worship

One: We know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to His purpose;
so, dear Lord, when we worry about things,
and when the pressure of life is intense:

Many: Calm us!

One: We know that You call each of us to a life of service
as we respond to Your great loving kindness.
Often through laziness, fear, or by busying ourselves
we avoid Your call.
In those times, dear Lord,

Many: Stir us!

One: During this service, help us, O God,
to leave aside the busyness of our lives
and the things we worry about which drag us down.
As we meet You in word and song,
movement and stillness, [bread and wine], and in each other,
lift our spirits, renew our faith,
and increase our determination to be loyal disciples of Jesus.

Many: Amen

Reflection

Have a series of boxes, one slightly larger than the other. Each represents a line in this dialogue. Cover each box in coloured paper (each line read by Mary should be pale blue and each line read by Martha should be red) and, if you wish, create an image on the front of each representing that line (for example, hands in prayer for line one, a bible for line two, and so on).

The idea is to show that work and reflection go together and support each other. We are all a bit of Mary and Martha.

Mary: Let us wrap up our work in a time of prayer,
Martha: and our prayer in the work of each day,
Mary: and each day in the words of the gospel,
Martha: and the words of the gospel in the serving of others,
Mary: and the serving of others in listening to their needs,
Martha: and listening to their needs in responding to their cries,
Mary: and responding to their cries with hearing their story,
Martha: and hearing their story with doing something about it,
Mary: and doing something about it by first praying about it.
Martha: Let us wrap up our work
Mary: in Mary's listening
Martha: and Martha's working
Both: for there is not one without the other.

Take Home Ideas For The Week

It is not about jobs. We believe in a priesthood of all believers. This is YOU. So, how seriously will you take God's call to you in your life? What are you being asked to do and be?

Sending

May the One who called Samuel during the night,
help you to hear the Divine call.

May the One who strengthens the Church for works of service,
equip you as you respond to God's call to both serve and preserve the unity of the Church.

May the One who needed both Martha's busyness and Mary's calm,
help you to hear Him when you are too busy,
and stir you to action when you are too calm.

And may the blessing of God,
the Holy and Undivided Trinity,
be with you, and all whom you love, now and always. Amen