

Readings for Sunday, July 21, 2019
Woodbury United Methodist Church

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians:

Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is the first-born Son, superior to all created things. ¹⁶For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole universe through him and for him. ¹⁷Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place. ¹⁸He is the head of his body, the [church](#); he is the [source](#) of the body's life. He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. ¹⁹For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. ²⁰Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.

²¹At one time you were far away from God and were his enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. ²²But now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into his presence. ²³You must, of course, continue faithful on a firm and sure foundation, and must not allow yourselves to be shaken from the hope you gained when you heard the gospel. It is of this gospel that I, Paul, became a servant—this gospel which has been preached to everybody in the world.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her [home](#). ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you [care](#) that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" ⁴¹The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, ⁴²but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her."

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**