

Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE
DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

John 11:1-6

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 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." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.



Maria Lang, *Jesus Wept* (Print) [<http://marialang.net/jesus-wept/>]

COLLECT

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Resurrection of the Dead (c. 1250) Enamel Victoria and Albert Museum

“But what had lasting significance were not the miracles themselves but Jesus' love. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and a few years later, Lazarus died again. Jesus healed the sick, but eventually caught some other disease. He fed the ten thousands, and the next day they were hungry again. But we remember his love. It wasn't that Jesus healed a leper but that he touched a leper, because no one touched lepers.” – Shane Claiborne

“It makes me think of Lazarus. He must have had those shadows after his miracle. You don't spend time in the tomb without it changing you, and everyone who was waiting for you to come out.” – Sara Zarr

At the beginning of John 11 we are reminded of the family of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Friends of Jesus, with a house in a convenient place which would have meant Jesus visited there often as he was travelling around. We hear of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume in John 12 (often a reading set in Holy Week). We hear of Mary and Martha in Luke 10 with Martha busy preparing food and hospitality for Jesus, whilst Mary listens to Jesus' teaching.

News reaches Jesus that his good friend Lazarus is ill, but Jesus does not rush to reach the family. Jesus delays, not moving to be with the family. He later is challenged on this by the family but in John 11:1-6 we are told that Jesus says “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.”

God's timing is not the same as what we would wish it to be. In John 11 Jesus delays going to Lazarus for a greater purpose.

When do you get challenged with living in faith with God's timing?

To Listen:

Be Still My Soul by Katharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel/Jean Sibelius

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xAlxzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1>