

Wednesday Word

In reflection on the message for Sunday 23rd July 2023.

Songs including **Open the eyes of my heart Lord (MP 1100)** were sung before the service.

Call to Worship, Psalm 19, read responsively...
The heavens declare the glory of God...

Introduction to Theme. The importance of the word **Heart**.

Extracts from Luke, Ch 10, v38-42, **At the Home of Martha and Mary.**

v39: **Martha's sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening,
while Martha was making preparations.**

Martha came to Jesus and asked him, "Tell Mary to help me."

v41f: **"Martha, Martha," The Lord answered,
"you are worried and upset about many things,
but few things are needed – or indeed only one.**

Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Extracts from Acts, Ch. 16, v13-15, **Lydia's Conversion in Philippi.**

v13: **On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river,
where we expected to find a place of prayer.**

We sat down and began to talk to the women who had gathered there.

v14: **One of those listening was a woman from Thyatira named Lydia,
a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.**

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

v15: **When she and her household were baptised, she invited us to her home.**

**"If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said,
"come and stay at my house". And she persuaded us.**

Talk and Reflections: Open Your Heart.

How marvellous is the success of open-heart surgery these days. There is a spiritual equivalent of open-heart surgery. It is the hope of salvation for the recipient. This happened to Lydia in the Acts reading. In the Luke reading of Jesus meeting Martha and Mary, Mary listens to Jesus and Jesus tells Martha that Mary had *chosen what is better*, which may be interpreted as opening her heart directly to Jesus as Lydia had done in Acts. . It is not easy for Martha to strike the balance between prioritising the tradition of providing hospitality and opening-up to Jesus' message. We should always open our hearts to Jesus.