The reading of Holy Scripture together as a community has been a central part of Christian worship throughout the Church’s long history, and it has deep roots within the practices of God’s people, Israel.

We read Scripture together not simply to learn new information about God’s dealings with humanity in the past, but to listen in faith to what the Living God is saying to us His people today. We listen to His Word to draw closer to Him, and to one another.

After every Scripture Reading this morning, we’re all invited to take a few moments in silence to reflect upon the passage, and how God’s Spirit might be addressing us through it, as individuals or as a community.

In those moments, pay attention to any words, ideas, or images that stand out to you. In the silence afterwards, ask God to help you hear His heart for you today.

After the Gospel is read, and we’ve taken a moment to in silence to reflect upon it, I’ll share a few reflection questions that Pastor Rob has prepared to help us dig in a bit deeper.

Reflection Questions

* In our First Reading from Genesis, we are told the Living God visits Abraham and Sarah in the form of three men. It is a mysterious passage, to be sure, calling to mind the beautiful mystery of the Trinity. Abraham and Sarah hasten to offer them generous hospitality, and then find themselves surprised by the promise that they would return, and Sarah would soon give birth to a son.
* In our Second Reading from Colossians, St. Paul speaks of his own serious efforts and struggles to help others come to know and grow in Christ Jesus, in whom “all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:19-20).
* In our Gospel Reading, two sisters are hosting Jesus for a meal. Martha is busy with all the preparation work, while Mary is sitting at Jesus’ feet listening to Him. When Martha complains and asks for Mary to help her, Jesus replies that actually *Martha’s* the one who is distracted from what matters most.
* **Hospitality involves inviting others, not only into our “space”, but into our lives, opening our *hearts* to them, and offering them our full attention. How are we able to offer this kind of attentive hospitality to Jesus in our lives?**
* **What has God surprised you with when you have opened your heart to Him?**
* **How might being attentive to Jesus our Saviour reshape how we treat the people in our lives, and how we pay attention to them too?**