Sunday Wonderings for the Second Week of Lent
Sunday March 16th, 2025.
Everything [In]Between faith & works

I can picture it—salty sweat, accumulating in her bangs. The scent of toasted sesame seeds, crushed oregano, sumac, and cumin. Flour on her hands, painting streaks of white in her hair when she ties it back. The sweet date she samples—the way it stretches and clings to the back of her teeth, leaving the taste of honey in her mouth.

I can picture Martha in that kitchen, plating meals, eager to see their eyes close. Their heads nod. To hear the swell of approval that rises from their lips. And I can picture her sister. Brows scrunched. Fingers fidgeting, wishing for a pen, for paper, for a way to write it down. I can see her mouth part like a fish in the air, questions forming and reforming on her curious lips. I can see her lean in, knees tucked, eyes bright. I can see her imagining the world he dreamed of.

And I can picture how, for generations, this story of two brazen women in scripture. I can picture how, for generations, a story of two so close to Jesus, has been heard. I can picture the way we put these women in boxes. I can imagine how people saw their full hearts, their untamed energy, and decided to label that as good and bad, better and worse. I can imagine how Martha's questions were interpreted as nagging, or the interruption interpreted as needy.

I can picture how it happened,
but what if it was all more beautiful than that? What if these sisters discovered a ministry of cooking? What if they discovered the faithfulness of learning, the kind of friendship that allows you to ask questions, or something in between?

I can imagine it. Can you?
Poem by Rev. Sarah Speed from Sanctified Art

On Sunday we gather to celebrate the stories of Jesus. To listen deeply to words of faith, to be held in the loving company of one another and to be renewed to be God's loving presence in the world.

Can you picture it. Can you imagine it! You are invited to come and see.

We gather **at 1000** at Alpine Summit Lodge, located at 509 Turret Street, in the education room on the second floor to the left of the elevator. For those unable to attend in person, virtual participation via Zoom is available using the weekly link below. For those on Zoom, please bring bread and juice to join in the celebration of communion.

Here's our Zoom Link:

Time: 10:00 AM Edmonton

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82027623702?pwd=Ov5JFOFO80209mjjoakOzGKVNarX7b.1

Meeting ID: 820 2762 3702

Passcode: 367647

And because there is never too much poetry in the world, I close today's Sunday Wanderings with these beautiful words by Mary Oliver

My Work is Loving the World by Mary Oliver

My work is loving the world.

Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—

equal seekers of sweetness.

Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.

Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?

Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me

keep my mind on what matters,

which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.
The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

Blessings,
Rev. Linda McLaren