

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 6, 2020 Kingdomtide

“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

Day pours forth speech, and night declares knowledge.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

More to be desired are they than gold.

We join the heavens in telling the glory of our God.

Opening Prayer New every morning is your love for us, Creator God. So hear us as we call to you this day, we pray. Speak to us in this holy time that we may hear your truth and trust in your grace. Mold us to be the disciples you wish us to be that we may share your love for others as you love us. In Jesus’ name, we gather and pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading “Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!” Read Psalm 148

Prayer of Confession Lord Jesus Christ, you reach across every boundary, even death itself, and draw us into your loving arms. Forgive us for resisting your love. You call us friends and we act like minor acquaintances. Forgive us for turning away. Send us into the world to proclaim your love for all people and allow the power of your goodness to conquer the darkness in our lives. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession *Our loving God invites us to share the confessions of our hearts that we may know the comfort and peace of forgiveness.*

Words of Assurance All you who seek God, and who set your hope on Jesus Christ, hear the good news: we have received forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God’s grace. As forgiven and beloved children of God, we set our hope on Christ. We know that we are God’s children, raised to new life in Christ. May we abide in the saving love of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading “...love is the fulfilling of the law.”
Read Romans 13:8-14

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer *We come to worship with many concerns upon our hearts but also joys in our lives. You are invited to share them with God in this time of silence.*

Responsive Prayer

We have drawn near to God in a spirit of prayer.

We give thanks and praise, for God is good. God’s love endures forever! (R)

God hears our prayers, celebrating with us our joys and holding us close in our struggles. (R)

We rest in God’s unfailing love as we pray for one another and those we love. (R)

We offer these prayers in the holy name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together, saying.....

The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Reading “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Read Matthew 18:15-20

Meditation All summer long we’ve heard updates from the Maine CDC regarding the corona virus in our state; much attention is given to those places where an outbreak (3 or more) has occurred. In answering questions about one such outbreak

this week, Dr. Nirav Shah explained the first question which his office asks the facility: “What can we do to help you?” That is a very different question from “How did you let this happen?” or “Don’t you know the guidelines?” That’s refreshing to know for we live in a society that so often begins from a place of blame. In a similar fashion, when Jesus talks to his disciples about those times when the community of faith falls short of the unity, peace, and love to which we have been called, he doesn’t tell us to get to the source of the conflict. Rather, Jesus reminds us that we are a community of faith called to focus on reconciliation and restoration, not judgment and punishment and fault-finding. Jesus calls us to treat one another with the same mercy and compassion that God shows each one of us. Just as God showers our lives with a spirit of grace and forgiveness, we are to do the same – in our church family, in our families, in all of the ways that we are connected to one another.

The apostle Paul shared the same concerns for the church in Rome. As in last week’s reading, Paul takes great care to outline how these new Christians should exist together as the Body of Christ. He reminds them, “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” We are to love God and neighbor sacrificially and without reserve, not only as we recognize what God has done for us in the past but also because of what God will do in the future. As Paul reminds them, “For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.” The Kingdom of God is before us; therefore, we are to live with and love one another with great joy and anticipation, with amazing grace and abundant love. May that be our prayer.

Love Feast

Words of Benediction Go forth in the love of God to proclaim the mercy and grace of Christ. Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit filled with hope and peace. Go forth!



Lisbon United Methodist Church
welcomes, nurtures, and serves
all people
with the love of Christ.