

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 9, 2021 The Sixth Sunday of Easter
"At Home Worship"

Call to Worship

As we come to worship, rest assured that God is present here.

We open our hearts and find the God that dwells within.

Hope in God and trust this truth: God's love and grace are ours.

God calls us to share that love and grace in all the world.

Opening Prayer God of love and grace, as you welcome us to this time of worship today, we also welcome you to be within us. Breathe your love and grace into our very being, we pray. Open our hearts that we may know the truth of your presence and the glory of your love. Show us how to love one another in the words you share with us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading *"In him we live and move and have our being."* Read Acts 17.22-31

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in our wanderings and selfish desires, we have forsaken fellowship with our families, friends, and neighbors;

We have neglected our relationship with you, choosing worldly pleasures over truth, justice, and righteousness.

In a world of plenty, we have hoarded our earthly blessings, rather than storing up our heavenly treasures.

Free us from all that leads to the less than full life you would have us live that we may truly reveal the presence of Christ in our lives.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *In faith, we call out to a loving and forgiving God, seeking to put aside our old life and put on Christ. God surely answers our prayers. In the name of Jesus, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.*

Scripture Reading *"For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God."*

Read I Peter 3.13-22

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer *Please spend a few moments remembering those who are on our prayer list and the joys and concerns you bring to God today.*

Unison Prayer Almighty God, Source of all creation, you are never far from each one of us. We live because of you; we hope because of you. In the gift of your Son, our Savior, we love because of you. In your mercy, you hear the prayers of our hearts and bring comfort to those in need. By your grace, we celebrate our many blessings. With gratitude because you are our God and we are your people, we pray as Christ has taught us.....

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading *"Love one another as I have loved you."*
Read John 15.9-17

Meditation The apostles and missionaries of the early church often encountered people who had difficulty comprehending the story of Jesus without trying to put it into their own context; they hesitated when it came to learning something new. In the reading from Acts for today, Paul comes upon the Athenian people who have erected an altar "to an unknown god." While they have a plethora of Greek gods and goddesses who are well known to them, this one for whom they have created an altar seems to be beyond their comprehension. Paul interprets this

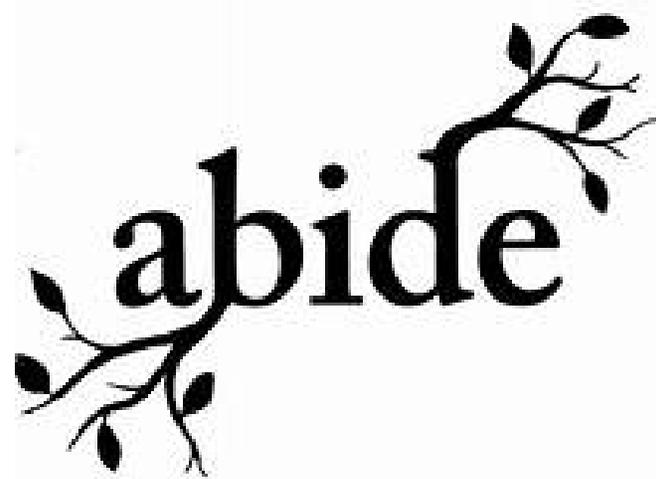
unknowing as restlessness – the kind that overcomes us until we realize that we “live and move and have our being” in the one, true God, the author of life and life everlasting. We have many gods in our time as well: money, security, materialism – all of which make us restless until we realize that the richness of life God desires for us can be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Jesus knows that he is soon to leave his earthly ministry in order to be seated at God’s right hand. Our verses in John’s Gospel this morning focus on the love that Christ has for us and wants us to have for each other. “This is my commandment,” Jesus reminds us, “that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” This, of course, is exactly what Jesus did for each of us: lay down his life in order that we may be given the gift of life eternal

The author of I Peter speaks to that in his letter as well. To be called Jesus’ friends was - and still is – a great honor. He had come among the disciples as the greatest teacher they had known; he had spent three years with them, helping them understand that his calling was their calling. Now he stresses that commandment to love one another more than ever at this point in this ministry. Christ continues to stress the importance of this greatest commandment for he knows that we will be as restless as the Athenians until we come to know the joy, the peace, and the grace that comes from truly loving one another as Christ has loved us.

May God bless us and keep us as we live out Jesus’ commandment not only to abide in his love but to share it with others.

Closing Prayer Holy God, whose presence surrounds and comforts me, accept the worship I offer you today. Fill me with your peace and create within me a heart full of your love and grace. Lift my eyes to you, O Lord, knowing that you who sent Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world, keeps my going out and my coming in forevermore. Amen.



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