

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 20, 2021 Kingdomtide 4
"At Home Worship"

Call to Worship

God is our light, our salvation, and our hope.

God's light beckons us to worship in Spirit and in truth.

Lift up your head and see the bright light of love.

We look up, seeking the face of God our Creator.

Stand firm and trust this promise:

God is with us, now and forevermore.

Opening Prayer Awesome God, we have come together to join with creation in proclaiming your glory. All around us are examples of your power and majesty; all around us are examples of your abiding love and grace. We pray this day for the strength and courage to enter faithfully into your covenant that we may open our hearts, our souls, and our lives in grateful praise. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading *"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone."* Read 1 Samuel 17.19-23, 38-42, 48-50a

Prayer of Confession God of strength and courage, you know our every fear, our every sin. Just as Jesus' disciples did, we, too, cry out when things seem out of our control. As we worship you today, we ask that you would strengthen us. Forgive us. Renew us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, heal us and make us people of faith and hope. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession

Words of Assurance All who seek God, and who have 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, knowing that in all things he is our salvation.

Scripture Reading *"...we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain."* Read 2 Corinthians 6.1-13

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.*

A Time of Prayer Almighty God, you have called us by name and continually pour down blessings upon us from your bounty. You have given us food to eat, homes to live in, clothing to wear, and family and friends with which to share. You have also bestowed upon us talents and gifts to be used to your glory. For all this, we give you thanks, O God. Hear our prayers for those we love. May we be blessed by the grace you offer us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray..... **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Reading *"He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"* Read Mark 4.35-41

Meditation It's interesting which phrases in our society are well known in word but not necessarily in origin. For instance, what about "falling by the wayside," or "a drop in the bucket," or "going the extra mile"? All of these phrases – and so many more – are found in the Bible. While individuals might not know the Biblical origin of those phrases, even those totally unfamiliar with the Scriptures will most likely recognize a reference to "David and Goliath." Goliath is the most well-known of giants!

Today's Scripture reading from the first book of Samuel tells us the story of David and Goliath – one perhaps familiar to you from your Sunday School days. In preparation for their confrontation, Saul clothed David with armor; however, when David couldn't

walk with it all on, he removed it and chose five smooth stones and a slingshot as his defense. When Goliath meets David, he totally underestimates him. No armor? Just a slingshot? And, as I Samuel recounts, “*he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.*” But woe to Goliath for such a summation because David was far more clever than he appeared. Goliath’s mistake of sizing David up on outward appearances reminds us of the words we heard from I Samuel last week as Saul was choosing David as the new king: “*the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*” God’s favor was with David in this altercation and defeats the bully. Likewise, in our gospel reading, Jesus defeats the winds and the waves that “bully” the disciples as they sail in the boat.

Both of these stories remind us of where the power lies. In both David’s confrontation with the giant and Jesus’ experience with the waves, God is in control. David knew that he couldn’t take on Goliath; Jesus was aware of the power of nature when taking on the rough seas. But both had a deep faith in the power of God to do so. Their faith reminds us that, when we ourselves are seized by fear and doubt, God is the one who “slays our giants.” Perhaps those giants are health concerns or financial worries or family relationships or, beyond our own sphere, concerns about racism and inclusion and a far kinder world. Will God take away those giants? Perhaps but my faith experience is that, even when the giants cannot be removed, God is the One who guides me as I deal with them. God is there in the chaos of life, God’s steadfast love sustains us as we do our best to remain faithful as the winds and waves toss us about. As David learned and as Jesus portrayed, God’s strength is with us. Thanks be to God!

Words of Benediction May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit abide with us this week. Glory be to our God who leads us forth as disciples who work to transform the world for Jesus Christ.



Kingdomtide

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