

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

June 27, 2021 Kingdomtide 5
“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

The earth is the Lord's. Everything in creation belongs to God.

Lift up your eyes and see the mighty works of God.

All who hope in the Lord will be called children of God.

Lift up your hearts and receive the gracious gifts of the Lord.

This is the time for worship and praise.

Lift up your voice and praise the Lord with all your might.

Opening Prayer Holy One, God of all creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, and to go where you send us. As we worship in the presence of the Risen Christ to hear your Word and sing your praises, fill us with your Holy Spirit and bless us, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading *“How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished.”* Read 1 Samuel 1.1,17-27

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 you 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.
Thanks be to our God.

Scripture Reading *“Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.”*

Read 2 Corinthians 8.7-15

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 God of ages past and days to come, be with us this day, we pray. Shower us with your love and truth. We bring you our hearts, our hands, and our minds that you may bless us to truly be the people you call us to be. Open our hearts to truly love others as you love us. Open our hands to be your active presence in the world. Open our minds to learn new things about the world around us. May we be blessed by the grace you offer us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.....

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading *“Do not fear, only believe.”*

Read Mark 5.21-43

Meditation “Our lives are often busy.” That's the way one commentator begins her thoughts on today's gospel reading. “Sometimes,” she continues, “our ‘busy-ness’ is task oriented and meaningful, and sometimes it's just busy.” So often I have folks tell me that, in retirement, they are busier than ever! Hmmm – that's not the retirement I'm looking forward to! At times our busyness can feel like a treadmill going faster and faster without getting us anywhere. You know the busyness routine: meals, laundry, groceries, and other errands. Often these are tasks that

we just sort of “plow through” at a rapid pace – until an interruption brings us up short. I remember using the vacuum cleaner when my boys were small; it wasn’t one of my favorite tasks and I was always anxious to get it done. However, when my boys wanted my attention, they figured out that just unplugging the vacuum would get it! That interruption was not always a welcome one!

In today’s passage from Mark’s gospel, Jesus is very busy. He is teaching and healing. In this particular story, he is presumably about to teach a crowd by the lake when he is interrupted by a man with a sick daughter. In his compassion and concern, Jesus stops what he is doing and follows the man named Jairus to his home to see his daughter. But while en route, Jesus is interrupted yet again! This time a desperate, chronically-ill woman stops to touch him in hopes of being healed. He stops, heals her, and blesses her before continuing on to the home of Jairus to see about his daughter.

Without any doubt, these stories have much to say about faith. But I think they have a lot to say about the way Jesus responds to and embraces these interruptions as well. It’s a powerful example of his compassion for people. He didn’t see interruptions as mere inconveniences or something to avoid. Jesus saw them as opportunities to love and to serve. And, because he welcomed them, amazing things happened for, as one commentator remarks, “When Jesus shows up, miracles start happening because that’s how Jesus works.”

I hope that we live our lives as Jesus did, not seeing interruptions as something to dread but as opportunities to be moved by God’s Spirit and our compassion as followers of Christ. May God interrupt and use each one of us to make a difference in the world.

Words of Benediction Seek the Lord while God may be found. Call upon the Lord while God is near! Embrace the paths that lead to life. Return to the Lord, who abounds in mercy and go forth to follow him.



Kingdomtide

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