

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 1, 2021 Kingdomtide 10
"At Home Worship"

Call to Worship

Be glad and rejoice, for God is creating us ever new.

New peace, new love, new life – these are the promises of Jesus.

Worship this day to call upon God's holy name.

Sing and shout with hope and joy, for God is here.

Opening Prayer As we open our hearts and minds to worship you, holy God, come and dwell in us, we pray. Be our strength and shield, that we may be your steadfast followers, even as you mold us to be courageous prophets of change and hope. Be our guide and our shepherd, we pray, that we may walk this challenging journey, even as we remain true to your calling and trust your promises of peace and life. Amen.

Scripture Reading *"You have shown great and steadfast love..."*
Read I Kings 3:3-14

Prayer of Confession Gracious God, we confess there are times when we are possessive and proud of the spiritual gifts with which you have blessed us. And yet our Christian experience is so immature compared with Christ's glory yet to be revealed. Forgive us when we glory in our gifts rather than wait expectantly for your glory to be further revealed. Help us prepare ourselves to be faithful disciples until his day becomes our blessing. In our Savior's name, we pray. 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 In faithfulness, we proclaim that the Lord is good for in the name of the Lord Jesus, we are forgiven; we are made whole. In Christ Jesus, God is able to save us, to heal us, and to reconcile us with one another. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading *"I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* Read Galatians 2:15-21

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.*

Prayer God of light and love and peace, we praise your name for inviting us to paths of righteousness, where we may come into your presence, forgiven and free. We give you thanks, in the chaos of our lives, for guiding us to this quiet time where we may rest beside the still waters of your grace. We worship you with all that we are, and we bless your name for all that we will be as we continue our journey of faith– a journey that leads to your Kingdom, where we will dwell with you forever. Hear us now as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.... **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Reading *"Do you see this woman?"*
Read Luke 7:36-8:3

Meditation Here is a story I've shared as a sermon starter: "There was a certain young woman who was nervous about meeting her boyfriend's parents for the first time. As she checked out her appearance one last time, she noticed that her shoes looked dingy. So she gave them a fast swipe with the paper towel she had used to blot the bacon she had for breakfast. Arriving at the impressive home of her potential in-laws, she was greeted by the parents and their much-beloved poodle, Cleo. Well, the dog got a whiff of the bacon grease on the young woman's shoes and

followed her around all evening, never leaving her alone. At the end of the evening, the pleased parents remarked, "Cleo really likes you, dear, and she is an excellent judge of character. We're absolutely delighted to welcome you into our little family." The story's author comments in conclusion: "Cleo may very well have been a great judge of character but that night, I'm afraid it was the bacon grease that won out."

This week's reading from Luke's gospel tells us that the Pharisee who invited Jesus to his table didn't think that he, in contrast to Cleo, was a very good judge of character. When the woman with the alabaster jar of ointment joins them and begins to wipe Jesus' feet and dry them with her hair, the host is aghast. "If this man were a prophet," the man thought to himself, "he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him – that she is a sinner."

Well, the good news is that Jesus DID know what kind of woman she was – a good, kind-hearted woman who needed to show her love and devotion to Jesus. And, as he so often did, Jesus turns the tables (no pun intended) on his host and asks him a pointed question: "Do you see this woman?"

Of course, the man could physically see her but Jesus was asking him something else. Did he *really* see her – for the person she was, created in God's holy image just as he was? Did he see her heart, kind and gentle in honoring Jesus? Did he see her need to be in the presence of the One who would make her whole?

This poignant story in Luke's gospel is a good reminder for each and every one of us each and every day. How often do we look at others and make up our minds about them – even when we know very little about their lives, their histories, their dreams, and desires? *Do you see this person? Really see them?* Jesus asks us. Well, do we??

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Benediction May the Lord of our lives bless you and keep you as go in peace to serve God and your neighbor. Go forth with faith and courage for the everlasting God of hope and grace goes with us.



Kingdomtide

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