

# LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 25, 2021 Kingdomtide 9

“At Home Worship”

## Call to Worship

*Come, sisters and brothers, rejoice in God’s glory.*

**We give praise for God’s endless love.**

*Come, sisters and brothers, sing of God’s grace.*

**We are blessed with the gift of God’s love.**

*Come, sisters and brothers, celebrate God’s Spirit.*

**We give thanks for the Spirit and this time to worship and praise our God.**

**Opening Prayer** As we open our hearts and minds to worship you, holy God, come and dwell in us, we pray. Plant seeds of love and courage in our hearts and in our lives, that the strong root of your Spirit may grow within us. Transform each one of us, transform this church, and transform the world. In faith and love, we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Reading** *“for you shall go to all to whom I send you.”* Read Jeremiah 1.4-10

**Prayer of Confession** Author of life everlasting, remind us once more, we pray, that your good news carries more than the hope of your blessing in our lives; it carries the expectation that we will amend our ways. It is not enough to praise you with our lips; we must also love you with our actions: by sharing our wealth, by showing mercy to the needy, and by protecting the weak and defenseless. In these things you are praised. 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** God longs for all people to come to repentance, that they may see the glory of God revealed in our Savior, Jesus Christ. When our sins are confessed, God comforts us. Glory be to God in the highest!

**Scripture Reading** *“...if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”* Read I John 1.1-2.2

**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.*

## Prayers of the People with a Time of Silence

### The Lord’s Prayer

**Scripture Reading** *“Peace be with you.”* Read John 20.19-29

**Meditation** For this week and the three weeks that will follow, we will be considering what it means to have courage through the eyes of different individuals in the Bible. The first person we consider is certainly not at the top of most lists when we begin to name those whose courage comes readily to mind. Despite that, his life – and his faith – is well-known.

The disciple Thomas wasn’t with friends in the “upper room” after Jesus’ crucifixion and so he missed the Savior’s first post-resurrection appearance. We can only imagine how sad Thomas must have been to have missed him, especially as the other disciples rejoiced and talked on and on about it. But, when Jesus returned a week later, Thomas WAS there and wasted no time in clearly stating his need to see the scars in Jesus’ hands and side for himself.

Once again, as Jesus did so often with those he met, the Risen Christ met this disciple on his own terms - right where he was, confused as he was. And Jesus encouraged him: *“Put your finger*

*here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting and believe.”*

Thomas is the disciple that has been given such a bad name through the years and all because he dared to ask a few questions and to be vulnerable in front of his friends. In addition, Thomas was able to admit his need to understand what was going on. That’s pretty courageous, isn’t it? I don’t know about you but I know that I’m not always that courageous.

That said, I’m not sure that Thomas deserves the reputation he’s been given through the centuries. And, in addition, his reaction to Jesus’ appearance makes sense if we stop and think about it. After all, Thomas had seen Jesus offer signs and perform miracles so that his disciples could begin to understand who he was and what he was capable of and Thomas just expected Jesus to do the same again.

In fact Thomas had already seen someone come back to life; he had been present with other disciples when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. But this upper room was different. Thomas knew implications of what he was seeing. For Jesus was not only alive but is also God! Of course the other disciples saw that Jesus was alive; however, think about today’s gospel reading. Thomas is the only one of the twelve who proclaims “My Lord and my God,” proving that this disciple - even in the midst of his questions was a true believer.

Thomas - perhaps more than any of Jesus’ disciples - witnessed to his faith in whose he was and where he was going as he accepted the amazing reality of the resurrection and proclaimed Jesus as his savior.

Thomas wasn’t the doubter that he has been proclaimed to be throughout the ages. Rather, Thomas had the courage to boldly ask his questions and express his need for proof and, as a result, he could courageously and boldly proclaim his faith as well!

**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.